



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2024

City Hall Council Chambers (1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland)

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum (5:34 p.m.)

Chair: Ricardo Garcia-Acosta

Roll Call: Vice Chair Wilson Riles; Commissioners Shawana Booker; Shane Thomas-Williams; Samuel Dawit; Angela Jackson-Castain; Alternate Commissioner Omar Farmer

2. Closed Session (5:34 p.m. – 6:38 p.m.)

Topics Discussed:

- **Existing Litigation:** Delphine Allen et al. v. City of Oakland, et al., N.D. Cal No. 00-cv-4599-WHO
- **Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release**

Read-Out: None

3. Redetermination of Quorum and Read-Out from Closed Session

Chair: Ricardo Garcia-Acosta

Roll Call: Same as initial roll call

4. Open Forum Part 1

Public Comments:

1. Transparency and Accountability:

- Concerns were raised about a lack of transparency in complaint investigations involving police misconduct.
- Suggestions included more frequent updates to complainants to mitigate uncertainty.

2. Trust in Process and Potential Bias:

- Public speakers highlighted perceived biases against marginalized communities in investigations of racial profiling or discrimination.

3. **Subpoena Power Advocacy:**

- Speakers emphasized the need for the Commission to actively use its subpoena power and suggested pursuing legal action for OPD's non-compliance with information requests.

Commission Response:

- Chair Garcia-Acosta acknowledged the concerns and emphasized the Commission's commitment to leveraging all tools, including legal avenues, to ensure OPD accountability and transparency.
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5. Oakland Police Department Update

Topics Discussed:

1. **Budget and Contract Adjustments:**

- Revisions to the Garcia Hernandez Sawhney LLP legal contract were discussed to meet budget constraints and comply with the City Charter.

2. **Staffing Updates:**

- Updates were provided on ongoing recruitment for CPRA and Police Commission positions in coordination with the city's HR department.

3. **Policy Ad Hoc Committee Updates:**

- The Discipline Matrix Ad Hoc continues to review and clarify OPD's disciplinary rules.
- A new Handcuffing and Restraint Policy Ad Hoc was approved to collaborate with stakeholders on policy revisions.

4. **Community Engagement Strategies:**

- Suggestions were made for OPD to enhance its outreach efforts, particularly for events like "Coffee with a Cop," by leveraging social media and community partnerships.

5. **Data Collection and Reporting:**

- Plans were discussed for inviting OPD's data analysts to present on methodologies for data collection and demographic reporting.

6. **Militarized Equipment Oversight:**

- Preparations to reconvene the Militarized Equipment Ad Hoc Committee to address pending reports and review equipment replacement timelines were outlined.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioners expressed the need for stronger accountability, transparency, and improved community engagement efforts.
- Commissioner Riles inquired about the specifics of OPD's collaboration with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), including roles, responsibilities, and alignment with public safety objectives.

Public Comments:

- Emphasis on timely reporting, improved community engagement, and adherence to community policing standards.
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6. Update from Office of the Inspector General

Presented by: Charlotte Jones (on behalf of IG Zurvohn Maloof, excused absence)

Topics Discussed:

1. **Annual Report Release:**
 - The OIG published its 2022–2023 Annual Report, summarizing its activities and findings.
2. **Staffing and Budget Enhancements:**
 - The OIG expanded from two to eight full-time positions and increased its budget.
3. **Community Engagement Initiatives:**
 - Efforts to engage communities affected by police misconduct were highlighted, utilizing digital and in-person outreach.
4. **Strategic Planning:**
 - The 2024–2027 Strategic Plan was discussed, focusing on strengthening accountability, transparency, and community trust.

Public Comments: None

7. Community Police Review Agency (CPRA) Update**Topics Discussed:**

1. **Case Management Improvement:**
 - Updates on reducing case backlogs and improving timelines.
2. **Public Reporting Enhancements:**
 - Plans for clearer and more accessible reporting formats to improve transparency.

3. **Outreach Efforts:**

- Strategies to increase public awareness of CPRA services were discussed.

4. **Staffing Challenges:**

- The impact of staff shortages on CPRA's operations was addressed.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioners emphasized the need for timely investigations, improved public communication, and strategies to address staffing shortages.

Public Comments: None

8. Adoption of Resolution Revising Garcia Hernandez Sawhney LLP's Contract

A motion was made and passed to revise the GHS contract for budget alignment and Charter compliance.

- **Motion Made By:** Commissioner Riles
 - **Seconded By:** Commissioner Jackson-Castain
 - **Vote:**
 - **Ayes (5):** Commissioners Garcia-Acosta, Riles, Jackson-Castain, Williams, Booker
 - **Nays (0)**
 - **Abstentions (1):** Commissioner Dawit
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9. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Topics Discussed:

- **Discipline Matrix Ad Hoc:** Weekly reviews continue to align policies with NSA requirements.
- **Handcuffing and Restraint Policy Ad Hoc:** New ad hoc formed for policy reviews.
- **Militarized Equipment Ad Hoc:** Recommended for reconvening to address compliance and reporting issues.

Public Comments:

- Inquiries about the progress of the Discipline Matrix Ad Hoc Committee and opportunities for community input.
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10. Commission Vote to Create Handcuffing and Restraint Policy Ad Hoc

A motion was made and passed to establish a Handcuffing and Restraint Policy Ad Hoc Committee.

- **Motion Made By:** Commissioner Williams
- **Seconded By:** Vice Chair Riles
- **Vote:**
 - **Ayes (5):** Commissioners Garcia-Acosta, Riles, Jackson-Castain, Williams, Booker
 - **Nays (0)**
 - **Abstentions (1):** Commissioner Dawit

Public Comments:

- Ann Janks offered her expertise, emphasizing the importance of oversight in policy review.
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11. Upcoming/Future Agenda Items

December 12th Meeting:

- Presentation from City Clerk's Office on Form 700 requirements
- Monthly CPRA report
- Inspector General reporting schedule updates

January and Beyond:

- Budget 101 presentation
 - Data collection methodology review with OPD analysts
 - Revival of Militarized Equipment Ad Hoc Committee
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12. Open Forum Part 2

Public Comments:

- Concerns about inadequate promotion of community events like "Coffee with a Cop."
 - Calls for improved communication and public involvement in case handling.
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13. Re-Adjourn to Closed Session (if needed) and Read-Out

Read-Out: None

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.