



**CITY OF OAKLAND  
POLICE COMMISSION SELECTION PANEL  
(SPECIAL MEETING)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, April 5, 2021**  
Via Teleconference

Selection Panel Members: Gay Plair Cobb (At Large), Don Link (District 1), James Chanin (District 2), *Vacant* (District 3), Lorelei Bosserman (District 4), Mary Vail (District 5), *Vacant* (District 6), Bill Thomasson (District 7), and Brendalynn Goodall (Mayor).

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**1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Quorum was determined and the meeting started at 6:13 pm.

Members present: Lorelei Bosserman, James Chanin, Gay Plair Cobb, Brendalynn Goodall, Don Link, Bill Thomasson and Mary Vail (arrived at 6:20 pm).

Members absent: None

Staff present: Richard J. Luna

City Attorney Staff present: Allison Dibley

**2. Open Forum**

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:

Assata Olugbala  
Gene Hazzard

There were no written comments submitted prior to the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**3. Approval of Selection Panel Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Don Link, seconded by Gay Plair Cobb, to approve the meeting minutes of March 4, 2021. The motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

There were no public comments on this item.

**4. Discussion on Vacant Alternate Commissioner Seat**

City staff member Richard J. Luna provided a report regarding the current Alternate Commissioner vacancy on the Police Commission and informed the Selection Panel they could make a nomination to immediately fill the vacancy by selecting a candidate in the

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reserve pool, subject to City Council confirmation. Staff stated that reserve pool applicants Jesse Hsieh, Omar Farmer and Theodore Johnson all expressed interest in serving as an Alternate Commissioner, applicant Art Blacksher declined an invitation for consideration, and that applicants Brian Hauck and Darnell Hammock had not responded to inquiries from staff.

Chairperson Jim Chanin recommended the Selection Panel expedite interviews with the three reserve pool candidates that expressed interest in serving as an Alternate Commissioner, that after the interviews the Selection Panel would either vote to select one of the applicants to nominate as an Alternate Commissioner or vote to state that the Selection Panel would not nominate one of the reserve pool applicants, and that if no candidate was selected, that the Selection Panel would hold a prolonged review process for filling the Alternate Commissioner vacancy.

Selection Panel Members discussed the recommendations made by Chairperson Chanin and the need to conduct an additional interview with reserve pool applicants, prior to making its nomination.

A motion was made by Don Link, seconded by Bill Thomasson, to consider reserve pool candidates that have expressed interest in serving as an Alternate Commissioner, to schedule interviews with those applicants on an expedited basis, that after the interviews the Selection Panel should be prepared to vote in either choosing one applicant to nominate or decide to not make a nomination, and that if the Selection Panel does not make a nomination, the Alternate Commissioner vacancy will be considered later in the year when the Selection Panel makes its nomination for 2021 open Police Commissioner seat. The motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

The Selection Panel then discussed the type and number of questions that will be asked during the interviews with the reserve pool applicants. Member Bill Thomasson recommended that each member have their own question to ask during the interviews. Member Lorelei Bosserman stated questions she was considering to ask during the interviews, which related to the Chief of Police, Inspector General, Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce, and contributions applicants would make to the Police Commission. Chairperson Jim Chanin also stated that the interviews should be scheduled for 30 minutes each, with a 10 minute grace period should the Selection Panel need additional time with the applicants.

A second motion was made by Gay Plair Cobb, seconded by Brendalynn Goodall, that each Selection Panel Member can ask their own question during the interviews, that the questions stated by Member Lorelei Bosserman can also be asked, and that the interviews be scheduled for 30 minutes each with a 10 minute grace period. The motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

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Selection Panel Members were polled on their availability and it was announced by Chairperson Jim Chanin that a Special Meeting will be scheduled for 6:00 pm on Monday, April 19, 2021, to conduct the interviews.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:

Assata Olugbala  
Rashidah Grinage  
Reisa Jaffe  
Gene Hazzard

**5. Public Safety Task Force Recommendations**

The Selection Panel discussed and asked clarifying questions to the Ad Hoc Committee report that reviewed and analyzed the Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce Recommendations. Members also stated the discussion should be held after the Selection Panel discusses the Police Commissioner application and outreach strategy.

A motion was made by Lorelei Bosserman, seconded by Don Link, to table the Public Safety Taskforce Recommendations agenda item and revisit it later. The motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:

Assata Olugbala

**6. Police Commissioner Application**

Member Lorelei Bosserman presented the Ad Hoc Committee recommended changes to the Police Commissioner application. The Selection Panel examined each recommendation and gave City staff direction to implement the following changes to the application:

- Add a language support phone number.
- Add a description that applicants should expect to spend 15-20 hours a week on Commission business.
- Add a questionnaire question on how long applicants have lived in Oakland.
- Add a supplemental questionnaire question related to prior service on a board.
- Add a questionnaire question on number of Commission meetings applicants have attended.
- Add contact information for someone seeking assistance with the application.
- Add a questionnaire question on how the applicant learned of the opportunity to apply.

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- Add a clarifying statement to note the supplemental questionnaire section is required.
- Add the deadline date to the application.

The Selection Panel also discussed whether incumbent Commissioners should use the same application, or different application, from all applicants. The Selection Panel also discussed incumbent Commissioners using the same application as all applicants but to provide a separate supplemental questionnaire for incumbents. Member Lorelei Bosserman stated she had ideas for supplemental questions specifically for incumbent Commissioners and would provide recommendations for the next Selection Panel meeting agenda.

City staff asked if the full Selection Panel would like to see the updated application prior to sharing publicly. Chairperson Jim Chanin announced the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of himself and Members Lorelei Bosserman and Gay Plair Cobb. The committee was tasked to work with staff in reviewing and finalizing the edits made to the application, ensuring the Selection Panel's edits and updates were implemented, prior to sharing publicly.

Action on this item was taken at a later time in the meeting.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:  
Rashidah Grinage  
Reisa Jaffe

**11. Terms of Selection Panel Members and Selection Panel Vacancies**

This item was taken out of order.

Chairperson Jim Chanin addressed the current vacancies on the Selection Panel from City Council Districts 3 and 6. Chairperson Chanin recommended the Selection Panel write a letter to both appointing authorities stating the Council Members need to make an appointment for Selection Panel representatives by April 19, 2021.

Deputy City Attorney Allison Dibley and City staff member Richard J. Luna responded to questions from Selection Panel Members about the process and procedure for how the Selection Panel can make its own appointments for seats not filled within 120 days by the appointing authority, provided clarification that former Selection Panel Member Braunz Courtney, the District 3 representative, submitted his resignation on March 26, 2021, and that written legal analysis may be needed due to the timing of the vacancies and implementation of the new provisions in the City Charter.

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Member Gay Plair Cobb volunteered to contact Council Members in Districts 3 and 6, requesting that they make appointments to the Selection Panel.

District 3 City Council Member Carrol Fife addressed the Selection Panel during the meeting. Council Member Fife stated her office was in communication with interested candidates and was working to make an appointment to the Selection Panel.

Chairperson Jim Chanin also inquired about the terms for Selection Panel Members and if Members could serve beyond the five-year time frame listed in the City Charter. Deputy Attorney Dibley stated legal analysis would be needed and could provide the information in the coming months.

There was no action taken on this item.

Public comments were provided by the following speakers:

Assata Olugbala  
Alessandra Mohar  
Reisa Jaffe

## **10. Annual Meeting**

This item was taken out of order.

City staff stated a motion was required to set the Selection Panel's annual meeting date, as staff had scheduling conflicts and could not accommodate the third Wednesday of May which was the prior annual meeting date set by the Selection Panel. Selection Panel Members stated their availability for the first week of May.

A motion was made by Bill Thomasson, seconded by Gay Plair Cobb, to schedule the Annual Meeting for Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

There were no public comments on this item.

## **6. Police Commissioner Application**

The Selection Panel returned to item number 6, which was previously discussed during the meeting, to discuss the application deadline for Police Commission applications for the 2021 nomination period.

A motion was made by Lorelei Bosserman, seconded by Bill Thomasson, that the application deadline for the Police Commission applications be June 15, 2021. The

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motion passed with seven ayes (Bosserman, Chanin, Cobb, Goodall, Link, Thomasson, Vail).

There were no additional public comments on this item.

**7. Police Commissioner Application Outreach**

The Selection Panel then discussed the proposed outreach materials submitted by Member Lorelei Bosserman. Members examined each proposed document and recommendations, and gave direction to implement the following outreach materials by updating the year and new application deadline:

- Social media posts.
- Short and long newsletter announcements.
- Email messages to the Mayor and City Council Members.
- Message for radio announcements.
- Letter to previous applicants.
- Emails city staff sent to organizations last year.
- Emails city staff sent to applicants last year.
- Press release, with authorization for Chairperson Jim Chanin to provide an updated quote at his discretion.

The Selection Panel requested the following items return for review at their meeting on April 19, 2021:

- Sample email to members.
- Letter for City staff to send organizations.
- Recruitment flyer.

There was no action taken on this item.

Public comments for items 7, 8 and 9 were provided at this time by the following individuals:

Assata Olugbala  
Reisa Jaffe

**8. 2021 Police Commissioner Application and Selection Process**

This item was not discussed. Public comment for items 7, 8 and 9 were called at the same time.

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Public comments for items 7, 8 and 9 were provided by the following individuals:  
Assata Olugbala  
Reisa Jaffe

**9. Time Commitment for Serving on the Police Commission**

This item was not discussed. Public comment for items 7, 8 and 9 were called at the same time.

Public comments for items 7, 8 and 9 were provided by the following individuals:  
Assata Olugbala  
Reisa Jaffe

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.