



Police Review Commission (PRC)

POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
(approved)

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 7:00 P.M

No physical location; meeting held exclusively through videoconference and teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL BY CHAIR RAMSEY AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Commissioner Ismail Ramsey (Chair)
Commissioner Michael Chang (Vice-Chair) (arrived 7:06 p.m.)
Commissioner Gwen Allamby
Commissioner Kitty Calavita
Commissioner Juliet Leftwich
Commissioner Elisa Mikiten
Commissioner Nathan Mizell
Commissioner George Perezvelez

Absent: Commissioner Hans Moore

PRC Staff: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer

BPD Staff: Lt. Robert Rittenhouse

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved/Second (Calavita/Allamby) **Motion Carried by general consent**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was 1 speaker.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Regular Meeting minutes of February 10, 2021

Moved/Second (Allamby/Calavita) **Motion Carried by general consent.**

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ramsey reported:

-- Mayor's Working Group on Fair and Impartial Policing: He and Comms. Calavita and Mizell, who were members of the group, along with Mansour Id-Deen, made a presentation to City Council yesterday. The Working Group's recommendations to address disparities in stops, use of force, and searches were approved unanimously. Press coverage in NY Times (Comm. Mizell quoted), SF Chronicle; and Daily Cal. Culmination of 18 months of work which included the BPD. While BPA issued a statement opposing the recommendations; they declined a seat on the Working Group and did not attend its meetings.

-- Comm. Mizell reported on the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. First meeting was Feb. 18; he was selected temporary chairperson. Primary tasks of first meeting was introductions and choosing 3 people from 18 applicants to recommend to Council for at-large positions. Selected Alex Diaz, Frances Ho, and Liza Lutzker. At next meeting (date to be determined); Auditor will present on 911 analysis; Public Works Director to report on BerkDOT, and will go over contract with NICJR.

6. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

The PRC Officer reported:

-- No new complaints filed since the last meeting. Mediation in one case concluded last Friday. Last active case scheduled for a Board of Inquiry a week from Friday.

-- Congratulations to Chair Ramsey and Comms. Calavita and Mizell for their work on the Working Group. Impressed by depth and breadth of report. Will send annotated agenda with recommendations when ready. Several items referred to PRC and/or Police Accountability Board. (Chair Ramsey added thanks to Mayor's aide, Tano Trachtenberg, for his work in organizing the Working Group.)

-- Council Public Safety Policy Committee will meet March 1, and Controlled Equipment Ordinance should be on agenda.

7. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Lt. Rittenhouse reported on behalf of Chief Greenwood:

-- Policy 300 [Use of Force] went into effect 6:00 a.m. Monday. BPD's webpage of policies has been updated to include Policy 300, and General Order U-2 removed. Responding to staff concerns, trainers formulated full-day scenario trainings with role-playing, preceded by 2-hour refresher trainings via Zoom. Establishing process to address concerns in future. Incorporating policy review in force training, like defensive tactics and firearms training. Also capturing time spent by supervisors in using new software to report UOF, to better examine impact of policy on supervisors' time.

-- Staffing remains dire at 159 sworn officers. Anticipate further losses to come. Do have working group addressing this.

- Chief was busy preparing for Special Council meeting on fair & impartial policing. He can share his PowerPoint presentation.
- Currently focused on the departmental budget and meeting budgetary goals.

Lt. Rittenhouse answered questions from Commissioners.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (discussion and action)

Report of activities and meeting scheduling for all Subcommittees, possible appointment of new members to all Subcommittees, and additional discussion and action as noted for specific Subcommittees:

- a. Warrant Service Policy Subcommittee – Subcommittee Chair Ramsey reported: Met Feb. 22, when Prof. Christy Lopez spoke and answered questions. Have now heard from 3 experts. Will now move into discussing policy and drafting recommendations.
- b. Outreach Subcommittee – Subcommittee co-chair Calavita reported they just met. Primary goal to help increase the width and depth of Police Accountability Board membership. Hector Malvido idea to host a webinar. Have compiled lengthy list of community groups to invite. May involve the Mayor. Possible date Sat., March 13. Co-chair Mikiten reported she has developed spreadsheet of organizations. Investigator Norris to circulate to commissioners so they can add others, Next meeting Monday, March 1.
- c. Lexipol Policies Subcommittee – (Discussed following Item 9.a.) Currently no chair. Comm. Mikiten has studied the list: about 184 policies; PRC has approved 112. Of remaining 72, 20+ are in the BPD's court. 48 remaining for Subcommittee; 3 ready for PRC. Propose subcommittee have 4 more meetings and review 12 each meeting. PRC Officer to schedule.

9. OLD BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Police Department response to request to memorialize in a written policy the instructions agreed to on inquiring about supervised release status of detainees, and when searches of such persons are allowed: review revised Policy 311.

(Discussion begun and to be continued when Chief Greenwood is able to attend.)

- b. Update on transition to new Police Accountability Board and Office of Director of Police Accountability, including:
 - i) Applications for Board members now available; due date March 22.
 - ii) Continue discussion about development of rules and regulations governing the operation of the incoming Police Accountability Board, with input from the PRC and the community.

PRC Officer gave an update and answered questions.

10. NEW BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Review commendations of BPD employees and consider additional commendations from the PRC.

(All references to page numbers are to the agenda packet.)

Motion to commend Officer Ruff for exception valor in saving the life of a man who had overdosed on suspected fentanyl. (p. 29.)

Moved/Second (Allamby/Ramsey) **Motion Carried by general consent.**

Motion to commend Officer Turney for heroism, in using his intuition to discern why the father, whose child was the subject of an attempted kidnapping, did not wish to re-contact the police after making an initial report. (pp. 35-36.)

Moved/Second (Mikiten/Perezvelez) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Calavita, Chang, Leftwich, Mikiten, and Perezvelez.

Noes: Allamby, Ramsey, Mizell Abstain: None Absent: Moore

Motion to commend Officer Melowitz for bravery and heroism in advancing towards where he heard shots fired and managing to detain 7 suspects by himself, and for his follow-up in the investigation. (pp. 39-40.)

Moved/Second (Mikiten/Calavita) **Motion Carried by general consent.**

Motion to commend Officer Ludovico for heroism, as he followed trail of blood to locate a stabbing victim and saved his life; also for superior handling of a difficult situation, as he calmed the victim's traumatized son. (p. 51)

Moved/Second (Mikiten/Allamby) **Motion Carried by general consent**

Motion to commend Officers Ren, Ramsey, and Gordon for actions going beyond the call of duty in saving the life of a man suffering from a drug overdose. (pp. 83-84.)

Moved/Second (Allamby/Perezvelez) **Motion Carried by general consent.**

Motion to commend Officers Waggoner and White for exceptional bravery in responding to a burglary in-progress, seeing 15 suspects flee, and engaging in a struggle in an attempt to physically detain a suspect. (p. 88.)

Moved/Second (Mikiten/Perezvelez) **Motion Carried by general consent**

Motion to commend Officer Perry for actions above and beyond typical duties in diligently pursuing a hate crime investigation; she conducted extensive interviews and followed up with the victim numerous times. Diligence. (p. 105)

Moved/Second (Chang/Mikiten) **Motion Failed**

Ayes: Chang, Mikiten, Perezvelez.

Noes: Allamby, Calavita, Leftwich, Mizell, Ramsey

Abstain: None Absent: Moore

Motion to commend Officer DeBruin for going above and beyond typical duties with his exceptional management of a violent person in an active mental health crisis at Alta Bates hospital. (p. 109.)

Moved/Second (Chang/Allamby) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Allamby, Calavita, Chang, Mikiten, Perezvelez.

Noes: Leftwich, Mizell, Ramsey Abstain: None Absent: Moore

Motion to commend Officer Turney for actions above and beyond the call of duty, as well as heroism, in bringing a person in severe mental health distress to safety, avoiding harm to himself and the subject, and following up with the man's parents and District Attorney's office. (p. 115.)

Moved/Second (Leftwich/Mikiten) **Motion Carried by general consent**

Motion to commend Officer Abdoulmawla for exceptional valor and heroism in saving a baby's life; and for superior handling of a difficult day, as it had begun with a response to a fatal train vs. pedestrian collision and, following his life-saving effort, he helped the CHP in a pursuit and eventually detained the suspect. (p. 152.)

Moved/Second (Leftwich/Perezvelez) **Motion Carried by general consent**

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 2 speakers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved/Seconded (Perezvelez/Calavita) **Motion Carried by general consent.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.