



## **Police Review Commission**

### **Standing Rules**

**(As of March 11, 2021)**

#### ***A. PURPOSE***

These Standing Rules are established by the Police Review Commission to ensure transparency and efficiency of our operations.

#### ***B. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS***

Amendments and revisions to these Standing Rules shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Police Review Commission, except that the Commission may not adopt rules that conflict with the enabling Ordinance, Commissioners' Manual, or Regulations for Handling Complaints Against Members of the Police Department.

#### ***C. AGENDA ITEMS – REGULAR MEETINGS***

1. Individual commissioners shall submit agenda items to the commission secretary by 12:00 noon one week before the meeting date. (This will almost always be a Wednesday.)
2. A commissioner may place only one item on the agenda per meeting, and may not add items to the agenda unless prior agenda items from that commissioner have been cleared. "Cleared" means that the Commission has either completed its consideration of the item, or agreed to move forward with the item by, for instance, forming a subcommittee or considering the issue as a whole commission, in which case the item belongs to the Commission, not the individual commissioner.

#### ***D. COMMUNICATIONS***

Individual commissioners shall submit communications to be included in the agenda packet to the commission secretary by 12:00 noon one week before the meeting date to ensure inclusion in the packet. Communications received after this deadline and before 3:00 p.m. on the meeting day will be distributed in hard copy at the meeting, and may also be distributed to commissioners via email. If communications are received after 3:00 p.m. on the meeting day, the commission secretary will make every effort, but cannot guarantee, to have hard copies available at the meeting.

#### ***E. MEETING PROCEDURES***

1. items shall be introduced by the commission member or staff member who proposed the item. The Chair shall then allow an initial period for discussion by recognizing commissioners in rotation to ensure that each commissioner has the opportunity to speak before a commissioner is allowed to speak again.

Commissioners are allowed a maximum of two minutes to speak each time they are given the floor.

2. After a motion on the item is made and seconded, the Chair will recognize the maker of the motion, and then the seconder, to speak. After that, the Chair will recognize commissioners in rotation, giving each commissioner the opportunity to speak before a commissioner is allowed to speak again. Commissioners are allowed a maximum of one minute to speak each time they are given the floor, and must confine their remarks to the merits of the motion. The Chair may give the maker of the motion an additional minute to speak before putting the matter to a vote.
3. A pending motion may be modified by a “friendly amendment”; that is, by a proposed amendment that is accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.
4. Action on a motion may be by either voice or general consent. In either case, the Chair shall ask the commission secretary to repeat the motion before the action.
5. Guest speakers who are not on the agenda may address the commission only by general consent, or upon a formal motion.
6. None of these procedural rules shall supersede the procedures set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order.

#### *F. PUBLIC COMMENT*

1. The Chair, subject to the consent of the commission, may determine the time limit for each speaker and the total number of speakers.
2. Before an agenda item is heard, the Chair or Vice-Chair may poll members of the public present to determine if a significant number of them wish to speak on a particular agenda item. If so, the Chair or Vice-Chair may move that public comment on that item can be heard just before the item.

#### *G. POLICY COMPLAINTS AND REVIEWS*

1. An inquiry into a policy, when initiated by a civilian filing a policy complaint form, is a “policy complaint.”
  - a) The procedures for handling a policy complaint are set forth in Section II.A.4.b. of the Regulations for Handling Complaints Against Members of the Police Department.
  - b) Additionally, a public comment period shall be agendized immediately preceding consideration of the policy complaint, limited to comments on that complaint. Policy complainants will be allowed to speak for five minutes. Other members of the public will be allowed up to three minutes; the time allotted is subject to the discretion of the Chair, who will consider the number of persons wishing to speak. Commissioners may ask policy complainants brief questions. The BPD will be given an opportunity to respond to the commission.
2. A commission-initiated policy review may commence upon a majority vote of the commissioners.

- a) Commissioners shall then determine how to proceed. Possible actions include, but are not limited to: considering the issue as whole commission, assigning a commissioner to research the issue, asking staff to investigate or research, or establishing a subcommittee. If a subcommittee is created it will seek BPD involvement in its policy review and, upon completing its review, will present its conclusions and recommendations to the full commission.
- b) The full commission may recommend to the BPD, City Manager, or City Council that the BPD adopt a new policy, revise an existing policy, or take no action.

#### *H. REGULAR MEETINGS*

Regular meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, except in the months of August, November, and December. The commission shall not meet in August, and shall meet only on one Wednesday of the month in November and December. Exceptions shall be made when a meeting day falls on a religious holiday.

Regular meetings shall commence at 7:00 p.m., and shall be held at the South Berkeley Senior Center and other locations as may be determined by the commission.

#### *I. ELECTIONS*

1. Annual elections for PRC Chair and Vice-Chair will be agendaized for the second regular meeting in January and, whenever possible, this item will be agendaized as the final item under New Business.
2. The election of the Chair will precede the election of the Vice-Chair, and the following nomination and election process will be followed for each office:
  - a) The presiding Chair declares the nomination process open.
  - b) A commissioner nominates another commissioner or him/herself. A commissioner must be present in order to be nominated.
  - c) The nomination is seconded (the nomination fails if there is no second)
  - d) The presiding Chair declares the nomination process closed, when there are no further nominations.
  - e) Each nominee is allowed two (2) minutes to express their reason for seeking the position. A nominee may decline this opportunity.
  - f) Commissioners pose questions to each candidate.
  - g) The presiding Chair calls for a roll vote and then announces the winner, except in the following circumstances:
    - i. If there is only one nominee for a position, the presiding Chair may seek or move a vote by acclamation.
    - ii. If a tie occurs among nominees, the presiding Chair will conduct a second round of voting, including any additional nominations.

- iii. If a clear winner is still not identified after a second round of voting, the presiding Chair will conduct a coin toss to break the tie and determine a winner. The PRC Secretary will assign “heads” and “tails.”
3. The PRC Secretary will record the maker and the second of the nomination motion as well as the total votes and results per office.
4. The outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair will be given the opportunity to make 2-minute departing statements after the election process takes place. The newly-elected Chair and Vice-Chair will assume their positions at the end of the meeting.

#### *J. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SUBCOMMITTEES*

1. In accordance with the PRC Ordinance, the Chair may appoint members of the public to subcommittees in which they have expressed an interest, subject to approval of the commission. Members of the public seeking to serve on a subcommittee must: a) be residents of the City of Berkeley; and b) present themselves at a commission meeting before or at the time of the appointment and speak on the public record on intent to serve and what they will bring to the subcommittee work and deliberations.
2. Members of the public appointed to subcommittees shall enjoy the same voting rights and privileges on the subcommittee, as that of PRC commissioners appointed to the subcommittee, except that public members may not be selected to be the subcommittee Chair.
3. Commission members must constitute a majority of the membership of any subcommittee, but a subcommittee may convene and conduct business even if commissioners are not a majority of subcommittee members present
4. The term of appointment for members of the public appointed to subcommittees shall not exceed the life of the subcommittee. If a subcommittee must be reauthorized, any members of the public serving on the subcommittee must be reappointed by the Chair, subject to the approval of the commission.
5. A public member of a subcommittee who is absent from two consecutive subcommittee meetings is automatically removed from the subcommittee, but may be reinstated by the Chair if good cause for the absences is shown.
6. The Chair, subject to the approval of the commission, may remove a member of the public from a subcommittee for good cause. Examples of good cause are: failure to work cooperatively with subcommittee members; unruly or disruptive behavior at meetings; or failure to participate in the work of the subcommittee.
7. All actions by the Chair to appoint, reappoint, or remove a member of a public to or from a subcommittee shall occur at a commission meeting.

*K. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS*

The commission shall constitute a mutual aid subcommittee no later than the first meeting in February of each year to review the pacts between the BPD and other law enforcement entities.

*L. SUBCOMMITTEE NOTES*

Each PRC subcommittee must produce written notes of what occurred at each subcommittee meeting. These notes must be forwarded to the PRC Officer, who will post the notes to the PRC's website

*M. ANNUAL REPORT*

The commission secretary shall endeavor to present the annual report for the commission's approval no later than June 1 of each year. The Foreword shall be written by the commissioner who served as Chair in the year of the report.

*N. FAMILIARITY WITH BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT*

Within the first 6 months of their appointment, newly-appointed commissioners shall endeavor to:

- 1) complete a ride-along with a sworn police officer, and
- 2) meet with Chief of Police and his/her command staff.

*O. KNOWLEDGE OF APPLICABLE LAWS AND RULES*

Commissioners should be generally knowledgeable of the Police Review Commission's enabling Ordinance (Ordinance No. 4644-N.S.; B.M.C. Chapter 3.32), the Regulations for Handling Complaints Against Members of the Police Department, and these Standing Rules. They should also bring copies of these documents to all commission meetings.

*P. COMMENDATIONS OF BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL*

1. The PRC regularly receives copies of communications praising Berkeley Police Department (BPD) personnel for noteworthy service; these commendations are both external (from members of the public) and internal (from fellow BPD or City of Berkeley employees). This process shall be used when the PRC desires to bestow additional recognition upon those BPD personnel, or when a commissioner on his or her own initiative wants the PRC to recognize BPD personnel.
2. The PRC may commend or otherwise honor with a special award or recognition an individual sworn officer or civilian employee of the BPD, or a group of officers and/or employees of the BPD, such as a team or division.
3. The commission secretary shall agendize commendations the PRC receives from the BPD periodically, as received. A commissioner wishing to initiate a commendation or other honor from the PRC shall submit the proposal to the commission secretary for placement on the PRC agenda in accordance with

Section C of these rules. The proposal shall include the name of the person or group to be honored, and a description of the noteworthy action.

4. For the PRC to issue a commendation or other honor, the BPD officer, employee, or group must be found to have performed an extraordinary service or performed in an extraordinary manner that meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - a) Exceptional valor, bravery, or heroism;
  - b) Superior handling of a difficult situation;
  - c) An action or performance that is above and beyond typical duties;
  - d) Extraordinary compassion, empathy, or kindness.
5. A motion to commend or otherwise honor BPD personnel shall include the act or incident giving rise to the honor and describe how it meets the above criteria. The motion must receive a majority of affirmative votes of commissioners present at the meeting to pass.
6. Following the meeting, the commission secretary shall communicate the PRC's action in writing to the City Council, and shall also forward the commendation to the Chief of Police, with a request that the commendation or other honor be placed in the personnel file of each sworn officer or civilian employee commended.

###