



Police Review Commission (PRC)

POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
(approved)

June 17, 2015
7:00 P.M.

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL BY ACTING CHAIR PEREZVELEZ AT 7:10 P.M.

Present: Commissioner Alison Bernstein
Commissioner George Lippman
Commissioner George Perezvelez (Acting Chair)
Commissioner Ann Rogers (Acting Vice Chair)
Commissioner Michael Sherman
Commissioner Bulmaro Vicente

Absent: Commissioner Benjamin Bartlett

PRC Staff: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer; Beneba Thomas, PRC Investigator

BPD Staff: Chief Michael Meehan, Lt. Dave Frankel, Sgt. Dan Montgomery

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as written.

Moved/Seconded (Bernstein/Rogers) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Bernstein, Lippman, Perezvelez, Rogers, Sherman, and Vicente.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bartlett

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were six speakers.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (discussion and action)

- a. Election of Chairperson to fill unexpired term.

Motion to elect Alison Bernstein Chairperson.

Moved/Seconded (Rogers/Lippman) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Bernstein, Lippman, Perezvelez, Rogers, Sherman, and Vicente.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bartlett

(Chairperson Bernstein presided over the rest of the meeting.)

- b. Election of Vice-chairperson (needed only if current Vice-chairperson is elected Chairperson).
No action needed.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-chairperson Perezvelez reported that today he participated on an oral board panel for the vacant BPD captain's position. Commissioners thanked Vice-chairperson Perezvelez for his hard work and leadership during his tenure as Acting Chairperson.

6. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

The PRC Officer introduced Beneba Thomas, who has been hired as a part-time, temporary investigator for the investigation into the December 2014 events. A BOI was scheduled for June 11, but the complainant did not appear, so the complaint was dismissed. Four BOI hearings will be scheduled in July and early August. The difference between complaint filing with IA and the PRC was explained. A live link to the call for witness testimony will be done soon.

7. OLD BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Policy investigation regarding the events of December 6, 7, and 8, 2014, and Council directive for an investigation into the events of December 6, as both are more fully identified in the regular meeting agenda of February 25, 2015; and including review of mutual aid practices and policies.

- i) Discuss policy recommendations.

By general consent the Commission agreed to spend the next 45 minutes asking Chief Meehan and his staff questions.

(At the Chief's request, a moment of silence was observed for the six people killed and seven injured by a balcony collapse two days ago.)

By general consent the Commission agreed it should produce its own view of the events, and then identify the areas in which improvement is needed. PRC Officer to condense public testimony and distribute, along with Commissioners' notes on video. Commissioners to send to the PRC Officer their ideas of a narrative by Sunday night; she will synthesize for distribution at the next meeting; it can be amended as necessary.

8. NEW BUSINESS (discussion and action)

a. 2014 Annual Report

Review and comment

By general consent, the item was tabled until the next meeting.

b. Outreach Activities

Consider participating in various upcoming events (including Juneteenth, June 21; National Night Out, August 4; Solano Stroll, September 13) to publicize the PRC and its mission.

By general consent, the Commission agreed that it should participate in Juneteenth if possible (Commissioners Bernstein and Vicente volunteered to staff a table or booth); forgo participating in this year's Solano Stroll; discuss National Night Out at the next meeting; and re-agendize the broader topic of outreach for a September meeting.

c. Establish Mutual Aid Agreements Subcommittee

Motion to establish a Mutual Aid Agreements Subcommittee.

Moved/Seconded (Rogers/Vicente) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Bernstein, Lippman, Perezvelez, Rogers, Sherman, and Vicente.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bartlett

The Chair appointed herself and Commissioners Lippman and Vicente to the subcommittee.

d. Request for research topics from U.C. student

By general consent the Commission agreed to inform Mr. Mabanta that the PRC will be making a series of policy recommendations in the coming weeks, and some of those may be suitable for referring to his group.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ATTACHMENTS & COMMUNICATION

Attached

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 3 speakers.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved/Seconded (Rogers/Sherman) **Motion carried by general consent.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.