



Police Review Commission

POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2011
7:00 P.M.

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON RUSSELL BLOOM AT 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Chairperson Russell Bloom
Commissioner Vonnie Gurgin
Commissioner George Perezvelez
Commissioner Sherry Smith
Commissioner William White

Absent: Vice Chair Kiran Shenoy, Commissioner Michael Sherman

PRC Staff: Victoria Urbi, PRC Officer

BPD Staff: Chief Meehan, Lynne Ohlson, BPD Business Manager, Sgt. Wilson and Officer Bartalini

2. ORDER OF AGENDA
#6B was moved to #5.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: January 12, 2011

Motion to approve minutes. M/S/C (Perezvelez/Gurgin) Motion carried.

Ayes: Bloom, Gurgin, Perezvelez, Smith and White.

Noes: None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Shenoy, Sherman

5. Update on the Civilian Oversight of Police Forum in Napa - Comm. Perezvelez
Comm. Perezvelez went to a forum in Napa, because a group of citizens are trying to start a civilian review board. The forum was sponsored by the Green Party and it stemmed from 2 officer-involved shootings last year. The group of citizens are concerned that the Sheriff's department is investigating the shootings.



6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Follow up to the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) Property and Evidence Room Study by Anne-Marie Hogan, City Auditor

Chair Bloom provided a background of the Property and Evidence Room Study: the PRC had an Evidence Theft Subcommittee that reviewed the property and evidence handling procedures of the Police Department. The Subcommittee issued a report in 2007, where BPD agreed with 25 out of the subcommittee's 28 recommendation. On that subcommittee were Comm. White, Smith, former Commissioner Kidd, and community members Jim Chanin and Andrea Prichett.

Anne-Marie Hogan was invited to provide a presentation on the Follow up Report and answer any questions the Commission may have. Ms. Hogan stated that after the evidence room theft, former Chief Hambleton and the PRC requested an audit of the evidence room as well as a review from POST. Some of the threshold issues took time, because it involved union issues. She stated that the auditor's job is to raise the level of audits to prevent opportunities for theft.

1. Commission discussion

Commissioner Perezvelez was concerned about why it took so long to implement the recommendations.

2. BPD comment

See Chief's report below.

B. BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

- A. Chief's report.

Chief Meehan stated that his report would be the response to the audit. He stated that many departments face the same problems. The POST audit was helpful. The Department has made changes to the training, policies and procedures. Lynn Olsen is overseeing the property and evidence room.

Chief Meehan stated that the department has implemented safeguards that are beyond the audit's recommendations, such as: inventories conducted of everything and not just firearms, updating General Orders; safeguards on currency, which included closing all bank accounts and closing accounts, so they are no longer with the police units; separating property room and office supplies; a sergeant has attended an international training on property and evidence room procedures and standards; staff are training officers and much more.

On July 19, Chief Meehan will provide a final report to City Council regarding the implementation of these recommendations.

7. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT (For Discussion or Action)

- A. Hearing update: Ms. Urbi reported that there was a hearing scheduled on February 2 (Complainant Walker), but it was cancelled, because the officer's representative had a scheduled day off. This hearing will be rescheduled. She stated that there is a hearing on February 8 with Commissioners Perezvelez, Smith and Shenoy. There is a hearing on February 16 with Commissioners Bloom, Gurgin and White. There is a hearing on February 24 with Commissioners Gurgin, Bloom and Shenoy.

- B. Status of complaints: there are 20 open cases. Since the last meeting, 2 new complaints have been filed.
- C. Comments:
- Ms. Urbi stated that Chair Bloom planned to talk with the Council members regarding filling the 2 vacant commission seats. She suggested that Commissioners may wish to provide possible names to the Chair, so that he could be more effective at suggesting candidates for the Commission.
 - Comm. Smith suggested that the City Clerk has names of potential candidates, who wish to serve on Commissions, so he may wish to check that list.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Attached

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Closed Session

The Police Review Commission recessed into closed session to discuss and take action on the following item:

10. RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE

A. Case No. 2273 – Complainant Kim Nemirow

Motion to accept Officer Urbi's recommendation to close Case No. 2273. M/S/C (Smith/White) Motion carried.

Ayes: Bloom, Gurgin, Perezvelez, Smith and White.

Noes: None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Shenoy, Sherman

Ms. Nemirow was present to discuss why her case should not be closed.

B. Case No. 2265 – Complainant Mark Kelly

Motion to accept Officer Urbi's recommendation to close Case No. 2265. M/S/C (White/Gurgin) Motion carried.

Ayes: Bloom, Gurgin, Perezvelez, Smith and White.

Noes: None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Shenoy, Sherman

11. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.