



Police Review Commission (PRC)

POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
(approved)

Wednesday, May 26, 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 7:03 P.M.

Present: Commissioner Ismail Ramsey (Chair)
Commissioner Michael Chang (Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Juliet Leftwich
Commissioner Elisa Mikiten
Commissioner Nathan Mizell
Commissioner Kitt Saginor (alternate)

Absent: Commissioners Gwen Allamby, Kitty Calavita, Hans Moore

PRC Staff: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer

BPD Staff: Lt. Robert Rittenhouse, Lt. Dan Montgomery

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was 1 speaker.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2021.

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

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ramsey reported:

-- Next step in the transition to the Police Accountability Board occurs on June 1, when nominees for Board will be considered by Council for final approval.

-- Interim Chief Louis presented to the Fair & Impartial Policing Working Group on progress of implementation of the recommendations approved Feb. 24. Hope to get a presentation to the PRC.

Comm. Mizell reported on the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force:

-- Last meeting was Thursday May 19. Joined by Chair Ramsey and Comm. Calavita, presenting on Fair & Impartial Policing recommendations, followed by Interim Chief Louis on Dept's progress so far. Next meeting June 10.

-- The Task Force released a survey to gather community's thoughts on a new public safety paradigm in Berkeley. Please share with community members.

6. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

The PRC Officer reported:

-- No new complaints filed since the last meeting. Board of Inquiry held yesterday; thanks to Comms. Leftwich, Moore, and Mizell for serving.

-- City Manager has begun the process for new Police Chief recruitment. Representative from Human Resources Dept. will present at next meeting re process; and PRC to select representative to steering committee.

-- PRC's online survey re familiarity with complaint process approved by Council yesterday. Mr. Norris sent link to poll to Commissioners and to community groups; please share widely.

-- Council also approved the classification and salary for the Director of Accountability, with some minor revisions.

7. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Lt. Rittenhouse reported on behalf of Interim Chief Louis:

-- Current staffing remains at 157, but several possible retirements upcoming, and officers leaving for other agencies. 4 conditional offers to start academy July 5.

-- Re PRC's interest in vaccination status of officers. Throughout pandemic BPD has required PPE one level higher than CDC required, e.g., N-95 masks. Have had very few cases and no cases of officers infecting member of the public. Rule: if can't maintain 6 feet of distance from community member, will wear N-95 mask.

-- CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) update. Rolling out new update in July. Trying to get as many through the longer POST-certified CIT as possible. OPD just started their 37-hour course and will start scheduling our officers to attend. Nearly 1/3 of officers have attended the 32-hour training and 114 have at least the 8-hour training.

-- Cases: shooting on 2300 block of Shattuck and 1100 block of Francisco. No injuries; homicide detail actively working the cases and have several promising leads.

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. Outreach Subcommittee. Co-chair Mikiten reported that, as PRC Officer stated, the survey is out. Will be the last outreach item before transition to PAB.
- b. Lexipol Policies Subcommittee. Chair Mikiten said they are tying up loose ends.

9. OLD BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Discuss vaccination status of sworn officers of the Berkeley Police Department.

Deputy City Manager Dave White was present to discuss and answer questions. No action taken.
- b. Consider making recommendations to the new Police Accountability Board about improving the process for handling complaints against officers.

(Heard following Item #9.f. Postponed to the next meeting.)
- c. Lexipol policies for review and approval.

Lexipol	G.O.	Title
324	P-29	Media Relations
403	C-52	Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity and Investigation
804	R-23	Records Maintenance and Release

(Policies 324 and 804 discussed; to be continued at the next meeting.)

Motion to approve Policy 403 with the following recommended revisions: 1) In 403.5, change “and/or” to “and”; 2) in 403.8.1.(b) delete “occasionally,”; 3) in 403.11, insert “be” [so that it reads, “It shall be the responsibility . . .”]; 4) In 403.11, current subsection (b)4. should be made a new subsection (c), as 4. does not follow from 1. through 3. preceding it.

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

- d. Whether to participate in a scenario-based use-of-force training offered by the Police Department.

Discussed; no action taken.

- e. Whether Commissioners may be allowed to observe police officers being trained and, if not, whether to take further action.

(Continued to the next meeting.)

- f. Update on transition to new Police Accountability Board and Office of Director of Police Accountability.

(Heard following Item #9.a.)

The PRC Officer gave a report.

10. NEW BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Extent of hate crimes tracking in the City of Berkeley (Old Business) and BPD response to recent anti-Asian hate crimes (New Business)

(Discussed; to be continued to the next meeting.)

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was 1 speaker.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved/Second (Mikiten/Leftwich)

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.