



Police Review Commission (PRC)

POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
(approved)

Wednesday, June 9, 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 7:01 P.M.

Present: Commissioner Ismail Ramsey (Chair)
Commissioner Michael Chang (Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Gwen Allamby
Commissioner Kitty Calavita (arrived 7:10 p.m.)
Commissioner Juliet Leftwich
Commissioner Elisa Mikiten
Commissioner Nathan Mizell
Commissioner Hans Moore

Absent: None

PRC Staff: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer

BPD Staff: Interim Chief Jen Louis, Lt. Robert Rittenhouse, Lt. Mel Turner, Sgt. Sean Ross (BPA)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda with the following changes: Hear Item #9.e. before item #9.a., followed by Item #10.a.
Moved/Second (Ramsey/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 26, 2021
Moved/Second (Calavita/Leftwich) **Motion Carried by general consent**

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ramsey reported:

- Council approved the slate of nominees for the Police Accountability Board, which included 5 members of the PRC and 4 other individuals.
- PRC finishing up its business as it will be phased out shortly.

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

- Next meeting is tomorrow at 6 p.m. Will hear from Chief Louis and from NICJR re new and emerging models of public safety.
- The survey re a new paradigm for public safety closes on June 15.

6. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

The PRC Officer reported:

- One new complaint filed since the last meeting, but investigation on hold due to pending criminal case. BOI [Board of Inquiry] hearing scheduled for July 2; thanks to Comms. Calavita, Chang, and Mizell for agreeing to serve.
- On June 15, Council plans to recognize the PRC Commissioners, as the last commissioners to serve. Will be a ceremonial matter which is early in the agenda.
- Final version of the Controlled Equipment Ordinance is in the agenda packet.

7. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Interim Chief Louis reported:

- Addressing question from last meeting re crime prevention. Data analysis showed chronic thefts at convenience stores. Officers being outside or walking through the business, or parking outside helped limit crime. Also, Marina crime up, especially at night. Responded with more patrols and more signage re no overnight parking. Led to recovery of guns in vehicles parked overnight there.
- Will be participating with Councilmember Taplin at a June 23 community event at San Pablo Park; responding to recent shooting there.
- Staffing: 1 of the 4 persons accepted into academy has rescinded. Some tenured officers in background for other agencies; a handful of officers planning to retire. 11 sworn personnel off duty due to injury. At risk of falling behind 157 preferred staffing level. Actively monitoring.
- City budget process underway. Personnel & training Sgt is putting together fair & impartial training sessions for entire dept. August & September; budgeting extra \$150K for next year.

Interim Chief Louis 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. Outreach Subcommittee – extend term. Co-chair Calavita reported 216 responses to survey so far. Survey open until June 16.

Motion to extend the term of both the Outreach and Lexipol Policy Subcommittees.

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

- b. Lexipol Policies Subcommittee – extend term. Co-chair Mikiten reported that the last 3 policies are on tonight’s agenda.

9. OLD BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Consider making recommendations to the new Police Accountability Board about improving the process for handling complaints against officers.
(Heard following Item #10.a.)

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

- b. Lexipol policies for review and approval.

Lexipol	G.O.	Title
324	P-29	Media Relations
804	R-23	Records Maintenance and Release
337	D-21	Biological Samples

Motion to accept Policy 337, Biological Samples.

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

Motion to table Policy 324 and forward it to the Police Accountability Board with written comments.

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

Motion to table Policy 804 and forward it to the Police Accountability Board with written comments.

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

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

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

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

The PRC Officer gave a report and answered questions.

- e. Extent of hate crimes tracking in the City of Berkeley and BPD response to recent anti-Asian hate crimes.

(Heard following Item #8.)

Interim Chief Louis and Lt. Turner gave a presentation and answered questions.

10. NEW BUSINESS (discussion and action)

- a. Recruitment process for Chief of Police
 - i. Presentation from Human Resources Department.
Presentation made by HR Director LaTanya Bellow and HR staff Tamberlyn Crayton and Kevin Sledge.
 - ii. Select representative from PRC to serve on steering committee for Police Chief selection.

Motion to nominate Commissioner Calavita to serve on the steering committee for police chief selection

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

- b. Review and approve certificate of appreciation for former Commissioner George Perezvelez, for 14 years of service on the PRC.

Motion to approve the revised draft from Chair Ramsey with one addition, to add “outstanding” before “leadership” in the first sentence.

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

- c. Commendation of BPD officers for their acts in capturing a fleeing suspect on April 30, 2021.

Motion to postpone this item to the next meeting

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 2 speakers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.