



## La Mesa Community Police Oversight Board

### Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: September 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
Location: La Mesa Police Department Community Room, 8085 University Avenue  
La Mesa, California

Present: Vice Chair Janet Castanos  
Board Member Denise Carlson  
Board Member Lauren Cazares  
Board Member John Fonseca  
Board Member Aaron Landau  
Board Member Jeffrey Scott McIlwain  
Board Member Susan Wayne

Absent: Chair Leroy Johnson  
Board Member Christian DeMent

Staff: Assistant City Manager Amanda Lee  
Chief Ray Sweeney  
Assistant to the City Manager Dedmon  
General Counsel Dale Larson  
Independent Police Auditor ("IPA") Rick Rasmussen  
Deputy City Clerk Stacy Ready

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#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Castaños called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

##### 1.1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Castaños led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. **ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

#### 3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

**5. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**5.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICE  
OVERSIGHT BOARD REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 21, 2024**

**Moved by** Board Member Cazares

**Seconded by** Board Member McIlwain

Approve minutes.

Yes (6): Vice Chair Castanos, Board Member Carlson, Board Member Cazares, Board Member Landau, Board Member McIlwain, and Board Member Wayne

Abstain (1): Board Member Fonseca

Absent (2): Chair Johnson, and Board Member DeMent

**Motion Approved (6 to 0)**

**5.2 PRESENTATION BY HILARY EGO, ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, REGARDING THE EV CHARGING  
STATION MASTER PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Environmental Sustainability Manager Hilary Ego and Environmental Analyst Serena Lee provided a PowerPoint presentation on the EV Charging Master Plan Community Working Group highlighting the Climate Action Plan and ways in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the transportation sector.

Board questions and comments ensued.

**Moved by** Board Member Fonseca

**Seconded by** Board Member Cazares

To appoint Board Member Fonseca, Board Member Landau, and Board Member Wayne to the EV Charging Station Master Plan Community Working Group.

Yes (7): Vice Chair Castanos, Board Member Carlson, Board Member Cazares, Board Member Fonseca, Board Member Landau, Board Member McIlwain, and Board Member Wayne

Absent (2): Chair Johnson, and Board Member DeMent

**Motion Approved (7 to 0)**

**5.3 LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- **STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT**
- **PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS**
- **DE-ESCALATION VIDEO**

Chief Sweeney provided an update on the staffing, recruitments, and vacant positions of the La Mesa Police Department ("LMPD"). He honored San Diego Police Officer Austin Machitar who lost his life in the line of duty, and San Diego Police Officer Zachary Martinez who was critically injured in a chase pursuit.

Chief Sweeney commented on August and September community events and activities.

Lieutenant Travis Higgins provided a video presentation on various safe de-escalation tactics and methods.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

**5.4 INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR UPDATES**

IPA Rasmussen provided an update on Case No. 2023-08.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

**5.5 2024 CPOB WORK PLAN REVIEW**

Vice Chair Castaños provided opening comments on reviewing the draft 2024 CPOB Work Plan.

Assistant City Manager Lee requested the Ad Hoc Subcommittees provide updates and accomplishments for the Work Plan.

Vice Chair Castaños suggested scheduling meetings with each subcommittee before presenting the final CPOB Work Plan to City Council.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)**

Vice Chair Castaños provided an update on the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Subcommittee. She commented on the missing data points on traffic stops and searches, and crime demographics.

**7. STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

General Counsel Larson announced General Counsel Chiappetti would no longer be a representative for CPOB due to her resignation from Strumwasser & Woocher firm. General Counsel Larson would be the point of contact until further notice.

Board Member Landau commented on his ride-along experience with the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) team. He commended Matt Smiley and Earl Childress and thanked them for the opportunity and their assistance.

Assistant City Manager Lee recognized Board Member Wayne for being the first to complete the ICS FEMA training courses.

Board Member Wayne commented on businesses in the City of La Mesa receiving SB553 Violence Training for awareness and safety measures.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Castaños adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.