



La Mesa Community Police Oversight Board

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: March 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Location: La Mesa Police Department Community Room, 8085 University Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Vice Chair Leroy Johnson
Board Member Christian DeMent
Board Member Clifton Ewbank
Board Member Dave Hardenburger
Board Member Aaron Landau
Board Member Jeffrey Scott McIlwain
Board Member Susan Wayne
Board Member Sophia Wright

Absent: Chair John Fonseca
Board Member Denise Carlson
Board Member Brianna Coston

Staff: Chief Ray Sweeney
Assistant to the City Manager Lyn Dedmon
General Counsel Julia Michel
Independent Police Auditor ("IPA") Rick Rasmussen
Deputy City Clerk Stacy Ready

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Johnson 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 **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBER**

Board Member Ewbank, Police Beat 3 representative, introduced himself and expressed his interest in serving on the Community Police Oversight Board.

5.2 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Moved by Board Member Wayne

Seconded by Board Member Hardenburger

Approve minutes.

Yes (8): Vice Chair Johnson, Board Member DeMent, Board Member Ewbank, Board Member Hardenburger, Board Member Landau, Board Member McIlwain, Board Member Wayne, and Board Member Wright

Absent (3): Chair Fonseca, Board Member Carlson, and Board Member Coston

Motion Approved (8 to 0)

5.3 **LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- **STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT**
- **PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Chief Sweeney provided an update on staffing, recruitments, and vacant positions within the La Mesa Police Department ("LMPD"). He also commented on community events and activities that took place in February and March.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

5.4 **HANDCUFFING PROCEDURE DEMONSTRATION BY LMPD**

Officer Ohlendorf and Officer Garcia presented a demonstration on handcuffing procedures and safety measures.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

5.5 INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR UPDATES

IPA Rasmussen provided an update on a use of force case review and recently submitted complaints.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

5.6 AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Assistant to the City Manager Dedmon summarized the purpose and duties of each ad hoc subcommittee. He opened the forum for nominations for appointments.

Board Member Ewbank was nominated to the Community Policing, Outreach and Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee and Mediation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Board Member Hardenburger was nominated to the Hiring Practices, Promotions, Employee Wellness Programs Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Board Member Wright was nominated to the Policies, Operations, and Trainings Ad Hoc Subcommittee and Racial and Identity Profiling Act ("RIPA") Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Moved by Board Member DeMent

Seconded by Board Member Hardenburger

Appoint Board Member Ewbank to the Community Policing, Outreach and Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the Mediation Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Appoint Board Member Hardenburger to the Hiring Practices, Promotions, Employee Wellness Programs Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Appoint Board Member Wright to the Policies, Operations, and Trainings Ad Hoc Subcommittee and the RIPA Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Yes (8): Vice Chair Johnson, Board Member DeMent, Board Member Ewbank, Board Member Hardenburger, Board Member Landau, Board Member McIlwain, Board Member Wayne, and Board Member Wright

Absent (3): Chair Fonseca, Board Member Carlson, and Board Member Coston

Motion Approved (8 to 0)

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

There were no committee reports.

7. STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Johnson encouraged Board Members to participate in a ride-along with the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement ("HOME") team. He recommended attending the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement ("NACOLE") webinars and participating in NACOLE conferences.

Board Member Landau commented on his ride-along experience with the HOME team.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.