

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE
5:00 PM, LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM
8085 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942**

**MINUTES
August 19, 2020**

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jamal McRae called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Robert Duff	X
Dr. Janet Castanos	X
Jamal McRae	X
Susan Wayne	X
Caitlin Tiffany	X
Patricia Dillard	X
Rev. Frank Willey	X
Joshua David Morse	
Steven Evans	X
Kathie Taylor	X
Andy Trimlett	X
VACANT	

Others present: City Clerk Wiegelman; Lieutenant Bell; Community Service Officer Allsberry; General Counsel Larson, Ordin, and Chiappetti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Clerk Wiegelman and Lieutenant Bell read aloud the emailed public comments submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the Task Force Meeting.

Dunla Seain submitted a comment regarding support of an independent citizens police oversight board.

Rev. Marcus C. Lohrmann submitted a comment regarding racism and anti-racism in La Mesa.

Melissa James submitted a comment regarding support of a strong proposal for the Citizen's Police Oversight Board.

Rev. Greg Batson submitted a comment regarding support of a permanent Community Police Oversight Board.

Jennifer Grigg submitted a comment regarding opposition to the City Council presentation of the CPOB proposal.

Z Julius submitted a comment regarding support of the creation of a community police oversight board and a community complaint handbook.

Lois Knowlton submitted a comment regarding support of a paid executive director for the commission.

Julienne Mallete submitted a comment regarding cats and dogs.

The Agenda Items were considered in the order presented, except for Item 3 which was heard prior to Item 2.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2020

ACTION: Motioned by Member Duff and seconded by Vice Chair Castanos to approve the minutes for the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force Special Meeting held Wednesday, July 15, 2020, as amended, to correct Jack Shu's title to Vice Chair and Janet Castanos to Member.

Vote: 10-0

Yes: Chair McRae, Vice Chair Castanos, and Members Duff, Wayne, Tiffany, Evans, Dillard, Willey, Taylor, Trimlett

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Chair Castanos and seconded by Member Dillard to have the police department make a presentation about the internal investigations process at a future meeting.

Vote: 9-1

Yes: Chair McRae, Vice Chair Castanos, and Members Duff, Wayne, Tiffany, Evans, Dillard, Willey, Taylor, Trimlett
No: Chair McRae
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

2. REVIEW OF DRAFT REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDING THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

Agenda Items 2 and 3 were discussed simultaneously.

General Counsel Larson asked for any requested changes or questions regarding the draft report.

The word “civilian” will be replaced with the word “community” in the name of the board.

ACTION: Motioned by Chair McRae and seconded by Member Willey to approve Chair McRae and General Counsel from Strumwasser & Woocher LLP present the draft report to the City Council with the modifications discussed.

Vote: 10-0

Yes: Chair McRae, Vice Chair Castanos, and Members Duff, Wayne, Tiffany, Evans, Dillard, Willey, Taylor, Trimlett
No: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Motion passed.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE CREATING A COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

General Counsel Larson introduced Caroline Chiappetti, who had been working with the legal team. General Counsel Larson explained that the oversight body would have two main functions: the review of investigations through an independent police auditor (IPA) in the case of serious incidents, and to make public those records that do not violate confidentiality. General Counsel Larson also discussed other functions of the board.

Richard Hammett submitted a comment regarding suggested revisions to the proposed ordinance.

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding suggestions to strengthen parts of the proposal.

ACTION: Motioned by Member Dillard and seconded by Vice Chair Castanos to approve Chair McRae and General Counsel from Strumwasser & Woocher LLP to present the proposed ordinance to the City Council with the modifications discussed.

Vote: 10-0

Yes: Chair McRae, Vice Chair Castanos, and Members Duff, Wayne, Tiffany, Evans, Dillard, Willey, Taylor, Trimlett

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

4. STAFF AND TASK FORCE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Evans announced that he had accepted an offer with another agency and this would be his last meeting with the Task Force. Alex White would be the new representative for the POA.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McRae adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Prepared by:

Nora Allsberry, Community Service Officer