



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City of La Mesa  
Community Police Oversight Board  
August 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California**

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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 Castaños called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** (X indicates present)

Chair Castaños	X
Vice Chair Dillard	X
Board Member Darby	X
Board Member Davis	X (arrived at 4:04 p.m.)
Board Member Duff	X
Board Member Fuentes	X
Board Member Johnson	X
Board Member Kertson	X (arrived 4:04 p.m.)
Board Member McWilliams	X
Board Member Sylvester	X
Board Member Tiffany	X

Others present: Assistant City Manager Tomaino; City Clerk Wiegelman; General Counsel Larson; General Counsel Chiappetti; Independent Police Auditor (“IPA”) Croxton, Montejano, Nunley, Rasmussen, and Smith.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Castaños led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **CURRENT BUSINESS**

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021, AND JULY 21, 2021**

ACTION: Motioned by Board Member Darby and seconded by Vice Chair Dillard to approve the minutes for the Community Police Oversight Board (“CPOB”) Regular meetings held Wednesday, July 7, and July 21, 2021, as amended, to show Board Member Kertson arriving at 4:12 p.m. in the July 21, 2021 CPOB meeting minutes.

Vote: 11-0

Yes: Chair Castaños, Vice Chair Dillard, Board Members Darby, Davis, Duff, Fuentes, Johnson, Kertson, McWilliams, Sylvester, and Tiffany

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

### **2. LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS**

Chief Sweeney stated three Community Listening Sessions were held and were successful. Chief Sweeney announced the next Community Listening Session would be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Northmont Elementary School, and the Community Listening Sessions would continue on a quarterly basis or sooner if needed.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

### **3. PRESENTATION FROM LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING DRAFT POLICY ON BIAS-BASED POLICING**

Chief Sweeney provided an overview of the draft policy on bias-based policing and explained the purpose for the policy.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

### **4. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD AD-HOC COMMITTEE(S) IN PREPARATION OF AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LA MESA CITY COUNCIL**

Assistant City Manager Tomaino recommended four different ad hoc subcommittees for the purpose of preparing the CPOB’s annual report to the City Council. Assistant City Manager Tomaino explained the ad hoc subcommittees would be comprised of two to three CPOB Board Members, one La Mesa Police Department representative, and one IPA team member.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the CPOB to form the following four ad hoc subcommittees comprised of the following members for the purpose of preparing the CPOB's annual report to City Council:

1. Policies, Operations, and Trainings:  
Board Member Fuentes  
Board Member Duff  
Lieutenant Katy Lynch  
IPA Bert Nunley
  
2. Emergency Operations and Communications:  
Board Member Darby  
Board Member Sylvester  
Captain Matthew Nicholass  
IPA Bruce Smith
  
3. Community Policing and Outreach Programs:  
Board Member Tiffany  
Board Member McWilliams  
Lieutenant Chad Bell  
IPA Karisa Croxton
  
4. Hiring Practices/Promotions, and Employee Wellness Programs:  
Board Member Johnson  
Board Member Kertson  
Lieutenant Gregory Runge  
IPA Dennis Montejano

## **5. REVIEW OF UPDATED DRAFT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

General Counsel Larson explained the CPOB Ordinance limits the scope of the CPOB's oversight authority to LMPD officers and the draft policies and procedures would need to be amended to refer to 'LMPD officers' and not 'LMPD employees'. General Counsel Larson recommended the CPOB monitor the complaints over the next six to twelve months to determine if any complaints pertain to LMPD non-officers and if there would be a need to return to the City Council to broaden the oversight authority of the CPOB to include LMPD non-officers.

Board questions and comments ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Board Member Darby and seconded by Board Member Sylvester to approve the policies and procedures with the following amendments: (1) include a referential note in Article 5 Section 2(b) to Article 8 Section 1(b); (2) change the wording of Article 6 Section 3(c)(2) to read, "Develop recommendations for improvements to policies, practices, procedures, and trainings"; and (3) add a sentence to Article 9 Section 2(e) stating, "The first report will be due by the end of January 2022."

Vote: 9-0

Yes: Chair Castaños, Vice Chair Dillard, Board Members Darby, Duff, Johnson, Kertson, McWilliams, Sylvester, and Tiffany

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Board Members Davis and Fuentes

Motion passed.

## **6. PRESENTATION FROM THE INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR OF THE SAMPLE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

IPA Smith introduced the IPA team from BartlettJames, LLC.

IPA Rasmussen provided an overview of the CPOB projects the IPA team was working on and reviewed the sample quarterly reports.

Board Member Fuentes left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Following Board questions and comments, no action was taken.

## **STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Castaños announced that she, Vice Chair Dillard, and Board Members Sylvester, Duff, and Darby attended a de-escalation training through the District Attorney's Office.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Castaños adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.