

**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
November 18, 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

City Clerk Wiegelman called the meeting to order at 5:05 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	
Joshua David Morse	
Kathie Taylor	X
Andy Trimlett	X
Alex White	X

Others present: City Clerk Wiegelman; Lieutenant Bell; Community Service Officer Allsberry; General Counsel Sheridan Ordin; General Counsel Chiappetti; Teri Black and Tina White of Teri Black & Co., LLC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted.

Member White joined the meeting.

Member Taylor joined the meeting.

Member Dillard joined the meeting.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SELECTION AND HIRING OF THE NEXT POLICE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF LA MESA

Teri Black and Tina White of Teri Black & Co., LLC explained their role as recruiters for the next Police Chief for the City of La Mesa. They asked the Task Force two main questions regarding the recruitment:

1. What is the ideal candidate profile? What qualities and characteristics are most important to you?
 - a. Some Task Force responses: experience as a change agent, willingness to bring about systemic change, a willingness to work with the Community Police Oversight Board, improving community relations, listening to the community, understanding recent issues, 2 or more years commitment to the position, creative/innovative, unfamiliar with/not from La Mesa
2. If you were to advise the new Chief where he or she should invest their attention and energy during the first year, what would be on your list?
 - a. Some Task Force responses: diversity, transparency, training, change, community outreach, sensitivity towards people of color

Following Task Force questions and comments, no action was taken.

2. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DRAFT OPINION PIECE FOR PUBLICATION IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Vice Chair Castanos explained that she and Members Dillard, Trimlett and Taylor had been working on the draft opinion piece. Vice Chair Castanos contacted Laura Castaneda at the Union Tribune Editor's Desk and said Ms. Castaneda was "very much" interested in the opinion piece and would like to see the final draft. The piece would have only Andy Trimlett's name on it as a representative of the Task Force.

Member White brought up the statistics provided in paragraph three of the opinion piece; he provided context for the statistics with LMPD's arrest statistics, which included city of residence information.

ACTION: Motioned by Member Duff and seconded by Member Dillard to move forward with the op-ed, with minor changes.

Vote: 8-0-1

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

No: None

Abstained: Member White

Absent: Members Willey and Morse

Motion passed.

3. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF COMPLAINT OF POLICE MISCONDUCT HANDBOOK AND FORM

Vice Chair Castanos and Members White, Trimlett, Wayne and Taylor were on the subcommittee to create the complaint handbook and form. Vice Chair Castanos asked for recommendations or suggestions regarding the handbook and form.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Chair Castanos and seconded by Chair McRae to move the complaint handbook and form forward to the Community Police Oversight Board.

Vote: 9-0

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

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Members Willey and Morse

Motion passed.

Member Dillard left the meeting.

4. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DRAFT SURVEY FORM AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT SURVEY FORM

The Task Force discussed changes to be made to the draft survey form. The Task Force discussed translating the survey into Spanish and possibly Arabic and the possible methods of distribution for the survey which included Survey Monkey, email, Facebook and hard copies.

ACTION: Motioned by Member Duff and seconded by Member Taylor to move forward with the survey, with minor changes.

Vote: 8-0

Yes: Chair McRae, Vice Chair Castanos, Members Wayne, Tiffany, Taylor, Trimlett, White and Duff

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Members Willey, Morse and Dillard

Motion passed.

5. DISCUSSION OF SAMPLE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

General Counsel Chiappetti provided the Task Force with a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) used by the City of Davis and the proposed minimum qualifications for a police auditor. It was stated that the auditor is not required to be a lawyer.

Following Task Force questions and comments, no action was taken.

6. DISCUSSION OF SAMPLE BYLAWS FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

General Counsel Chiappetti explained that the document provided to the Task Force was a list of procedures and guidelines for the bylaws. Vice Chair Castanos suggested adding a bylaw regarding training for Board Members.

Following Task Force questions and comments, no action was taken.

7. STAFF AND TASK FORCE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Task Force Members thanked each other and commended the Task Force for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McRae adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

This was the final Regular Meeting of the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force.

Prepared by:

Nora Allsberry, Community Service Officer