

**SPECIAL 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
July 1, 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 5:02 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	X
Steven Evans	X
Jack Shu	X
Vacant (Police Beat 4 Resident Representative)	

Others present: Megan Wiegelman, City Clerk; Lieutenant Katherine Lynch, La Mesa Police Department; Community Service Officer Nora Allsberry, La Mesa Police Department

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

AN OVERVIEW OF POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARDS PRESENTED BY SUE QUINN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sue Quinn described different types of boards or commissions. Boards or commissions can be dependent, independent or hybrid. Ms. Quinn also discussed how a commission's members should be selected.

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

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD PRESENTED BY ANDREA ST. JULIAN, ATTORNEY AND CERTIFIED APPELLATE SPECIALIST

Andrea St. Julian stated that the core of an effective police oversight board is independence. The board must also have its own legal counsel, discretionary powers, investigatory powers, subpoena power, mediation, the ability to review all investigations done by the police, adequate staffing and the ability to make recommendations.

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

CITIZEN POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARDS AND WHAT WORKS WELL PRESENTED BY MICHAEL GENNACO, INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR

Michael Gennaco stated he does not believe an independent investigative body is a necessary part of a police oversight board. Mr. Gennaco believes a board of volunteers is not enough, but requires someone with a level of expertise to look at aspects which are systemic in nature.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Amanda Rader submitted a comment regarding support for the committee.

Melissa Walter Weiss submitted a comment regarding support for a Police Oversight Committee.

Jennifer Buckel submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD and community sensing.

Amanda Rogers submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD.

Melinda Howard submitted a comment regarding the need for the police department.

Stacy Orchulli submitted a comment regarding her support of La Mesa PD.

Mariela Escobar submitted a comment regarding her support for the La Mesa Police Department.

Mike Boatright submitted a comment regarding his support for the La Mesa Police Department.

Jeff McGreevy submitted a comment regarding his support of community sensing/polling.

Isabela A. submitted a comment regarding her support of community sensing.

Low Gallery submitted a comment regarding bringing transparency to LMPD.

John submitted a comment regarding his appreciation for the La Mesa Police Department.

The following comments were not received by the 3:00 p.m. deadline, and therefore were not read aloud during the Task Force Meeting:

Kevin Worley submitted a comment regarding the need for police department involvement in a Police Oversight Committee.

Pamela Hughes submitted a comment regarding her support for LMPD.

Linda and Steve Lilyquist submitted a comment regarding their support and praise for the police.

Frederick W. Lindblom submitted a comment regarding his support for LMPD.

Michelle Beale submitted a comment regarding her gratitude for the La Mesa Police Department.

Tyler Garcia submitted a comment regarding support for La Mesa PD.

Jon Gauger submitted a comment regarding praise for La Mesa PD.

Lisa Amorteguy submitted a comment regarding support for the La Mesa Police Department.

Rick Powell submitted a comment regarding thanks to LMPD and FD.

Lacy Italiano submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD.

Anna Garcia submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD.

Jacki Crandall submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD.

Jessica Hileman submitted a comment regarding support for LMPD.

Cliff and Gayla Henderson submitted a comment regarding their appreciation for the La Mesa Police Department.

Rachel Payne submitted a comment regarding her appreciation for LMPD.

Ryan Powell submitted a comment regarding his objection to an oversight committee.

Hayley Keeling submitted a comment regarding her positive experiences with LMPD.

Lisa Marquis submitted a comment regarding her thanks to La Mesa PD.

Nancy Salas submitted a comment regarding her appreciation for the La Mesa Police Department.

Judith Patterson submitted a comment regarding how a Police Oversight Committee would be formed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION: Motioned by Janet Castanos and seconded by Chair Jamal McRae to approve the minutes for the Citizen Public Safety Oversight Task Force Regular Meeting held Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

Vote: 9-0

Yes: Robert Duff, Jamal McRae, Susan Wayne, Caitlin Tiffany, Joshua David Morse, Steven Evans, Jack Shu, Dr. Janet Castanos, Patricia Dillard

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

2. UPDATE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY AND TIMELINE OF THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE AS AMENDED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

City Clerk Wiegelman updated the Task Force on Items 12 and 13 from the City Council.

J. Tomasello submitted a comment regarding opposition to the police oversight committee.

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding support of a Council-created commission and a voter-created commission.

3. AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. GENERAL LAW VS. CHARTER CITY

i. Dale Larson has been retained as an attorney and is preparing a report for the Task Force. He will attend the next Task Force Meeting.

ii.

B. POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION OF GENERAL LAW CITIES OF SIMILAR SIZE

i. Subcommittee found five General Law cities of similar size with a Police Oversight Commission; assessed functions and powers. The city of Davis looks like a city comparable to La Mesa.

C. IDENTIFYING STAGES/PROCESS/TASKS TO PLACE MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

i. Proposed timeline: Have a draft proposal prepared next week, have the draft proposal open for comment the following week. Discussion resulted in agreement that timeline is too rushed and is not practical.

D. VALUE OF SUBPOENA POWER

i. Questions of whether Commission is a Legislative body with the ability to issue subpoenas. Is subpoena power necessary or can officer statements be compelled by the Chief of Police?

Meegan Nolan submitted a comment regarding the lack of transparency at LMPD.
Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding the desire for an independent oversight commission, rather than a review board.

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

4. DISCUSSION OF CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Melissa submitted a comment regarding the needs of the citizens.

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn submitted a comment regarding the process of writing procedures.

Rev. Kelly Ryan submitted a comment regarding the creation of a police oversight committee through City Council action.

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

5. DISCUSSION OF ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE CITIZEN PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE SPECIAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020

Following Task Force discussion, no action was taken.

6. STAFF AND TASK FORCE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Task Force Member Steven Evans invited the other Task Force Members to participate in the use of force simulator located at the La Mesa Police Department. Task Force Member Evans also invited Task Force Members to participate in a ride-along with him.

ACTION: Motioned by Vice Chair Jack Shu and seconded by Steven Evans to form an ad hoc subcommittee comprising of Task Force Members Susan Wayne, Steven Evans, Jamal McRae, and Janet Castanos, to draft a proposal to the City Council.

Vote: 9-0

Yes: Robert Duff, Jamal McRae, Susan Wayne, Caitlin Tiffany, Joshua David Morse, Steven Evans, Jack Shu, Dr. Janet Castanos, Patricia Dillard

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

City Clerk Wiegelman adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

Prepared by:

Nora Allsberry, Community Service Officer