



Community and Police Relations Commission

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council  
Cc: City Manager's Office  
From: Victor Barajas, Community and Police Relations Commission  
RE: 2016 Annual Report

**Background**

In October 2003, the Mayor and City Council established the National City Community and Police Relations Commission (CPRC). The Commission should be comprised of eight individuals appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Of the eight members, seven are voting members and one is a non-voting member. Of the seven voting members, five must be residents of National City. The non-voting member is a member of the National City Police Officers Association (NCPD-POA). The terms of the membership are three years, subject to reappointment by the City Council.

As of the time period this report reflects (2016), there are 5 voting members and one non-voting member leaving two vacancies to be filled for voting members.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday in the months of February, May, August and November at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the National City Civic Center, 1243 National City Boulevard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, National City, unless otherwise designated.

**2016 Year End Review**

During the year in review, the National City Community and Police Relations Commission continued its training objectives from the 2015 year and saw several changes in personnel. Amongst these changes in personnel were changes to the complaint review subcommittee members and changes to the Chair and Vice Chair roles. The committee also made catching up on the review of backlogged cases from the 2013/2014 years a priority and made significant headway in towards accomplishing this objective.

The committee was also staffed with enough commissioners throughout the year so as to maintain a full quorum and avoid ANY meeting cancelations for the year.

During the Commission's May and November meetings, two newly appointed Commissioners were introduced; (John Bailey and Derek Jones respectively). Both of Commissioners are included in the total number of voting commissioners referenced above. These additional appointees gave the Commission added flexibility to accommodate Commissioner Absences without risk of canceling regularly scheduled meetings.

In addition to the new members welcomed by the Commission during the year, the following personnel changes also occurred:

- Florfina Arce resigned from the commission.
- Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola were appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively with a majority vote by the Commission.

### **Complaint Review Subcommittee**

Victor Barajas was moved from alternate to primary on the Complaint Review Subcommittee. Diana Plazola was appointed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> primary on the Sub-Committee and John Bailey was appointed as an alternate to review completed Internal Affairs cases in the absence of Chairman Barajas or Vice-Chairman Plazola's absence.

### **Cases Reviewed in 2016**

During the 2014/2015 year, a significant backlog of cases was created due to several factors that prevented the efficient review of cases. During the 2016 year CPRC made it a top priority to catch up on this backlog and made significant headway towards accomplishing this objective.

During the 2016 reporting year; the commission reviewed **21** Citizen/Department Initiated investigations in closed session. Of the 21 cases reviewed, 17 were supported unanimously by the commission; two cases were withdrawn; one had two commissioner abstentions and one, was referred to another law enforcement agency for review.

### **Current Status of Complaints**

- As of the date of this report; the 2014/2015 backlog of cases has been significantly reduced and the commission is on track to eliminate the backlog by mid 2017.

*\*Note: All complaints that are reviewed by CPRC Complaint Review Subcommittee are taken to the entire Commission in closed session for discussion and determination.\**

## Training/Special Presentations

- 2014 Use of Force/Internal Affairs Statistical Report by NC Chief of Police, Manuel Rodriguez.
- Use of Force Legal Standards by Senior Assistant City Attorney, Nicole Pedone.
- Body Worn Cameras by NC Police Lieutenant, Robert Rounds.
- Summary of unreasonable searches and seizures, by Senior Assistant City Attorney, Nicole Pedone.
- Internal Affairs Processes presentation by NC Sergeant. Aydelotte.
- 2016 Mid-Year Crime Statistics by NC Police Captain, Jose Tellez.
- Discussion on DUI/Driver License checkpoint by Chairman Victor Barjas.
- Chairman Victor Barajas and Commissioner John Bailey attendance at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference.

## 2016 Attendance

### *February*

**Present** – Barajas, Victor; Plazola, Diana; Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Estolano, Nancy; Castro Munoz, Julio; Bailey, John (voting members)

**Present** – Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

**Absent** – Arce

### *May*

**Present** – Bailey, John; Barajas, Victor; Estolano, Nancy; Plazola, Diana; Arce, Florfina (voting members)

**Absent** – Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

**Absent** – Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Castro Munoz, Julio (voting members)

### *August*

**Present** – Bailey, John; Barajas, Victor; Castro Munoz, Julio; Estolano, Nancy; Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Plazola, Diana (voting members)

**Present** – Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

**Absent** – Arce

### *November*

**Present** – Barajas, Victor; Castro Munoz, Julio; Estolano, Nancy; Jones, Derek; Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Plazola, Diana (Voting members)

**Present** – Bill Phillips (non-voting member)

**Absent** – Bailey, John

## 2017 Goals

- Continue reviewing the 2014/2015 backlog of cases and have cases caught up by mid-year (May meeting).
- Continue seeking training opportunities for the commission.
- Begin talks of updating and formalizing the commission's complaint review subcommittee procedures for reviewing cases.
- Begin talks of updating the commission's Bylaws to include formal training requirements for current and future commissioners.
- Continue to review IA cases in real time.
- Continue building the commissions membership.

DRAFT