



Community and Police Relations Commission

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council
Cc: City Manager's Office
From: Victor Barajas, Chairman - Community and Police Relations Commission
RE: 2018 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 (2017), 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, 2nd Floor, National City, unless otherwise designated.

2018 Year End Review

During the 2018 year in review, the National City Community Police Relations Commission updated the committees training bi-laws to require that all commissioners, at minimum, attend two law enforcement/policy trainings per year. With the objective being better preparation for all commissioners to be effectively cycled through CPRC's Complaint Review Sub-Committee.

In an effort to prevent future backlogs of in IA case reviews; the commission also voted to amend the, then current, bi-laws concerning the Complaint Review Subcommittee and the manner in which the committee went about reviewing active cases.

As amended, the sub-committee is now required to meet with NCPD's Internal Affairs Department a minimum of once per month in order to review cases.

During the year in review, both the February and May meeting were canceled due to lack of quorum however, two newly Commissioners were also appointed and welcomed; (Michael Lesley and Candy Morales). Commissioner Lesley attended his first meeting during the month of November and, Commissioner Morales is scheduled to, as of the time of this report, to attend her first meeting in February of 2019. These additional appointees will give 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:

- Nancy Estolano stepped down as Commissioner.
- Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola were re-appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively with a majority vote by the Commission.
- Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola were re-appointed to the Complaint Review Subcommittee.

Cases Reviewed in 2018

During the 2018 calendar year, a total of 7 cases were brought to before the commission for review; of the 7 cases, the Commission unanimously supported the findings of NCPD on 4 cases with no further action being required on the remaining 3 cases.

Current Status of Complaints

- As of the date of this report, approximately 10 cases are ready for review by the complaint review sub-committee.

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

- Annual NACOLE Conference – As a cost savings measure; the commission voted not to send a representative to the conference for 2018. The Commission will re-assess in 2019 to determine whether sending representation would be appropriate.
- City Council Policy #119 Code of Ethics and Conduct.
- Public Records Act and Brown Act – Deputy City Attorney Robby Contreras and City Attorney, Angil Morris-Jones.

Complaint Review Subcommittee

Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola continued as primaries in the Complaint Review Subcommittee. Victor Gonzalez was appointed as an alternate in the wake of former Commissioner Bailey's departure.

2018 Attendance

February

Canceled due to lack of quorum.

May

Canceled due lack of quorum.

August

Present – Victor Barajas; Gil Garcia; Zachary Gomez; Victor Gonzalez;
Diana Plazola (Voting Members)
Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

November

Present – Victor Barajas; Gil Garcia; Zachary Gomez, Michael Lesley;
Diana Plazola (Voting members)
Absent – Victor Gonzalez.
Present – Bill Phillips (non-voting member)

2019 Goals

- Continue the development of complaint review practices.
- Actively pursue community outreach.