



Community and Police Relations Commission

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council  
Cc: City Manager's Office  
From: Chairman Seaton-Msemaji, Community and Police Relations Commission  
RE: 2015 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 (2015), there are 6 voting members and one non-voting member leaving one vacancy 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 Chambers of the National City Civic Center, 1243 National City Boulevard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, National City, unless otherwise designated.

**2015 Year End Review**

Of the four meetings scheduled in 2015, one was postponed until June and subsequently cancelled due to the lack of a full quorum of members. Of the three meetings held, two meetings included closed sessions in which the Commission reviewed a total of nine (9) cases.

During the Commission's August and November meetings two newly appointed Commissioners were introduced, (Florina Arce and Julio Castro Munoz). Both of

Commissioners are included in the total number of voting commissioners referenced above.

In addition to the newly appointed Commissioners, the following changes to personnel and policies also took place during the 2015 year:

- Commissioner Richard Wingfield – Resigned due to a new job that would require him to be away for longer periods of time.
- The Commission re-appointed Ken Seaton-Msemaji as Chairman of the Commission and Victor Barajas as Vice-Chairman.
- Commissioner Gray Dines name was removed from the roster due to his passing.
- The Commissions made the following changes to section 6 of its bylaws concerning unexcused absences:
  - “Membership in the Commission shall terminate if a member has Two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from meetings, whether regular or special, or four (4) absences from regular or special meetings, in a Three (3) year term.”

### **Cases Reviewed in 2015**

As noted above, the commission reviewed a total of nine (9) Citizen/Department Initiated investigations in closed session and agreed unanimously affirmed NCPD’s Internal Affairs findings on all cases.

### **Current Status of Complaints**

- As of the time period this report reflects, there are several cases pending review by CPRC members from both 2014 and 2015.  
*\*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**

- Brown Act presented by City Attorney Claudia Silva to the Commission
- Ethics Training – Chairman Seaton-Msemaji participated
- NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Conference - Commissioner Barajas and Lauren Maxilom attended.
- Report on Officer Involved Shootings (SD County District Attorney’s 1993-2012) presented by Chief Manuel Rodriguez to the Commission
- Ride-Along with NCPD- Commissioner Barajas participated
- The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens and Police presented by NCPD to the Commission
- Use of Force Workshop hosted by NCPD- Commissioner Dines participated

## **Subcommittees**

- Complaint Review Subcommittee for review of completed Internal Affairs investigations.
  - Victor Barajas moved from an “alternate” status on the subcommittee to active.
  - Diana Plazola was appointed new “alternate”.

## **2015 Attendance**

### *February*

Present – Barajas, Victor; Dines, Gary; Estolano, Nancy; Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Wingfield, Richard (voting members)

Absent – None

Present – Bill (non-voting member)

### *May*

Meeting postponed to June

*June* No meeting- lack of quorum

### *August*

Present – Barajas, Victor; Estolano, Nancy; Seaton-Msemaji, Ken; Plazola, Diana, Wingfield, Richard (voting members)

Absent – Arce, Florfina (voting member)

Present - Bill (non-voting member)

### *November*

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

Absent – None

Present – Walters, Wade (non-voting member)

## **2016 Goals and Aspirations**

- Continued educational opportunities for the Commission.
- More presentations by NCPD and other city agencies.
- Have Commissioners participate in one ride-along.