



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: 2017 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.

2017 Year End Review

During the year in review, the National City Community and Police Relations Commission began discussions to update the committees training bylaws 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; discussions on the procedures of Complaint Review Sub-Committee also began. The proposed changes to the procedures include a requirement for the committee to coordinate with Internal Affairs, at minimum once per month, to review recently completed cases for presentation at the next regularly scheduled CPRC meeting.

CPRC did see continued momentum from 2016 in its Complaint Review Subcommittee and continued reviewing IA cases in real time. Thus preventing additional backlogs as the committee saw in years 2014 and 2015.

During the Commission's May meeting, two newly appointed Commissioners were introduced, (Gil Garcia and Victor Gonzalez). Both 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:

- Derek Jones and Julio Castro Munoz resigned from the commission.
- Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola were re-appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively with a majority vote by the Commission.

Cases Reviewed in 2017

During the 2017 reporting year; the commission reviewed 8 Citizen/Department Initiated investigation in closed session.

Current Status of Complaints

- Effective March 2017; the 2014/2015 backlog of cases has been eliminated and all remaining case reviews are being conducted in real time as they become available by NCPD's Internal Affairs Department.

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

- FBI Index Crimes 2016 Statistics by National City Police Chief Manuel Rodriguez.
- Presentation on the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64) and National City's Recreational Marijuana Ordinance by National City Attorney, Nicole Pedone.
- Mobile Field Interview Technology and ARJIS Applications Presentation by National City Police Sergeant Shephard.

- Commissioner Victor Gonzalez and Deputy City Attorney Contreras attended at the 23rd Annual National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference.

Complaint Review Subcommittee

Victor Barajas and Diana Plazola continued as primaries in the Complaint Review Subcommittee. John Bailey continues as an alternate to review completed Internal Affairs cases in the absence of Chairman Barajas or Vice-Chairman Plazola.

2017 Attendance

February

Canceled due to lack of quorum.

Present – Barajas, Victor; Diana (voting members)

Absent – Bailey, John; Jones, Derek; Castro Munoz, Julio; Estolano, Nancy

Present – Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

May

Present – Bailey, John; Barajas, Victor; Castro Munoz, Julio; Estolano, Nancy; Garcia, Gil; Gonzalez, Victor; Plazola, Diana (voting members)

Absent – None

Present – Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

August

Present – Bailey, John; Barajas, Victor; Garcia, Gill; Gonzalez, Victor; Plazola, Diana (voting members)

Phillips, Bill (non-voting member)

Absent – Castro Munoz, Julio; Estolano, Nancy

November

Present – Bailey, John; Barajas, Victor; Garcia, Gil; Estolano, Nancy; Plazola, Diana (Voting members)

Absent – Gonzalez, Victor, Castro Munoz, Julio

Present – Bill Phillips (non-voting member)

2018 Goals

- Review and finalize the committee’s training/participation bi-laws section.
- Review and finalize the Complaint Review Sub-Committees procedures for reviewing cases.
- Have commissioners participate in, at minimum, two law-enforcement/policy trainings per year.
- Improve the committees case review time frames.
- Continue to review IA cases in real time.
- Continue building the committees membership.