



Community and Police Relations Commission

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

CC: City Manager's Office

From: Chairman, Michael Lesley and former Chairperson Candy Morales

Re: 2020 Annual Report

During the first quarter of 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic and local and state emergencies declared providing reprieve from certain public meeting laws. The health and well-being of National City residents, visitors, and employees during the COVID-19 outbreak remains a top priority. As a result, the National City Community and Police Relations Commission Meeting transitioned from in person meeting to only beginning in August to ensure the safety of City residents, employees and the communities.

Background

The National City Community and Police Relations Commission (CPRC) was established in October 2003 under the leadership of the Mayor and City Council. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Commission is comprised of eight individuals of which seven members are voting members. The one non-voting member is a member of the National City Police Officers Association (NCPD/POA). Commissioner terms are three years and subject to reappointment by the City Council.

The Commission meets quarterly 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, CA 91950, unless otherwise designated.

2020 Year Review

During the beginning of the 2020 calendar year the Commission was composed of the following members, Chair Candy Morales, Vice-Chair Michael Lesley and Commissioners Marianne

Delatorre, Zachary Gomez, Daniel Orth, Diana Plazola and M. Christine Stein including NCPD/POA non-voting member, Daniel Long.

On November 21, 2019, the Commission elected Commissioner Morales, to serve as Chair and Commissioner Lesly to serve as Vice-Chair from November 2019 – November 2020. May 19, 2020 the City Council amended Policy 107 *Appointments to Boards and Commissions* Section G. *Only City Residents may be elected to Chair. To be eligible to be elected as the Chairperson of a City Board, Committee or Commission, the member must be a resident of the City.* Chairperson Morales is not a National City resident and therefore on August 20, 2020, the Commission elected Commissioner Lesley to serve as Chair and Commissioner Delatorre to serve as Vice-Chair from August 2020 – August 2021.

Complaint Review Subcommittee

The complaint review subcommittee is scheduled to meet with National City Police Department (NCPD) - Internal Affairs (IA) Department on a monthly basis per Bylaws, Article V Section 4. All complaints that are reviewed by this subcommittee are presented to the Commission in a closed session for further review and discussion. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the reviews were postponed until further notice. Chairman Michael Lesley and Commissioner Candy Morales remain as primaries in the Complaint Review Subcommittee and Zachary Gomez as the alternate.

Cases Reviewed in 2020

A total of two (2) cases were brought before the commission for review. The Commission unanimously supported the findings of the NCPD on both cases.

Training and Special Presentations / Discussions

The annual (NACOLE) Conference:

- Due to COVID-19, the annual conference was held online and commissioners were given access to participate virtually.

National City Police Department:

- Presentation and discussion by National City Police Chief Tellez on the “8 Can’t Wait Campaign,” Captain Hernandez presented on behalf of Chief Tellez (08/20/20).
- Presentation and discussion by National City Police Chief Tellez on the 2020 mid-year crime statistics (11/19/20).
- Presentation and discussion by National City Police Cpt. Hernandez on the 2019 use of force statistics (11/19/20)

City Staff:

- Overview and discussion on the San Diego District Attorney’s Office report on “Addressing the Role of Mental Health and Substance Abuse as they Relate to Law Enforcement Use of Force Incidents” by Deputy City Attorney, Robby Contreras (2/20/20).

Meeting Attendance for 2020

Thursday, February 20, 2020:

Voting Members Present – Delatorre, Gomez, Lesley, Morales, Orth, Plazola and Stein

Non-Voting Members Present – Daniel Long (NCPD/POA)

Thursday, May 21, 2020:

Cancelled due to COVID-19

Thursday, August, 20, 2020:

Meeting held via Zoom Video Conference.

Voting Members Present – Delatorre, Gomez, Morales, Plazola and Orth

Non-Voting Members Present – Daniel Long (NCPD/POA)

Excused Absences – Commissioner(s) Michael Lesley and M. Christine Stein

Thursday, November 19, 2020:

Meeting held via Zoom Video Conference.

Voting Members Present – Delatorre, Gomez, Lesley, Morales, Orth, Plazola and Stein

Non-Voting Members Present – Daniel Long (NCPD/POA)

2021 Goals

1. Continue the development of complaint review practices.
2. Resume subcommittee case reviews.
3. Pursue community outreach and engagement efforts.