



## Commission on Police Practices

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
Wednesday, September 4, 2024  
4:30pm-7:30pm  
Procopio Towers  
525 B Street  
San Diego, CA 92101**

Click [https://youtu.be/WoSk8rNOR\\_c](https://youtu.be/WoSk8rNOR_c) to view this meeting on YouTube.

**CPP Commissioners Present:**

Chair Gloria Tran  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Dennis Brown  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Doug Case  
Octavio Aguilar (arrived at 4:35 pm)  
John Armantrout  
Bonnie Benitez  
Alec Beyer  
Cheryl Canson  
Stephen Chatzky  
Lupe Diaz  
Jessica Dockstader

Armando Flores (arrived at 4:48 pm)  
Christina Griffin-Jones (arrived at 4:48 pm)  
James Justus  
Daniel Mendoza  
Darlanne Mulmat  
Viviana Ortega  
Imani Robinson (arrived at 4:44 pm)  
Gonzalo Rocha-Vazquez  
Ada Rodriguez

**Excused:**

Dwayne Harvey  
Brandon Hilpert  
Clovis Honoré

**Absent:**

Dan Lawton

**CPP Staff Present:**

Paul Parker, Executive Director  
Duane Bennett, CPP Outside Counsel (attended virtually)  
Olga Golub, Chief Investigator  
Yasmeen Obeid, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Aaron Burgess, Policy Manager  
Alina Conde, Executive Assistant  
Jon'Nae McFarland, Administrative Aide

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- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Gloria Tran called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.
- III. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES: The purpose of the Commission on Police Practices (CPP or Commission) is to provide independent community oversight of SDPD, directed at increasing community trust in SDPD & increasing safety for community and officers. The purpose of the Commission is also to perform independent investigations of officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and other significant incidents, and an unbiased evaluation of all complaints against members of SDPD and its personnel in a process that will be transparent and accountable to the community. Lastly, the Commission also evaluates the review of all SDPD policies, practices, trainings, and protocols and represents the community in making recommendations for changes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
  - A. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024
    1. **Motion:** Commissioner James Justus moved for approval of the CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024. Commissioner Ada Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-0.  
 Yays: Chair Tran, 1st Vice Chair Brown, 2nd Vice Chair Case, Armantrout, Benitez, Beyer, Chatzky, Dockstader, Justus, Mendoza, Mulmat, Ortega, Rocha-Vazquez, and Rodriguez  
 Nays: 0  
 Abstained: 0  
 Excused/Absent/Late Arrival: Aguilar, Canson, Diaz, Flores, Griffin-Jones, Hilpert, Harvey, Honoré, Lawton, and Robinson
- V. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:
  - Darryl Cotton (*Timestamp 4:34*) - Please see attachments below.
  - Joe Hortado (*Timestamp 7:37*) - Spoke regarding SDPD not investigating or preventing the illegal cannabis sales from license dispensary.
  - Amy Sherlock (*Timestamp 10:55*) - Please see attachments below.
  - Carl Jackson (*Timestamp 17:15*) - Spoke regarding the responsibility of holding the SDPD responsible.
  - Candice Boots ceded time to Amy Sherlock
  - June Pyhala ceded time to Amy Sherlock
  - M. Wolf Segal (*Timestamp*) - Spoke regarding SDPD willful negligence.
  - Virtual Darwin Fishman (*Timestamp 23:47*) - Spoke on the CPP recommendations that were sent to SDPD and the response from them. Fishman also spoke regarding our new Policy Manager and Policy Committee meetings.
- VI. THE PROCESS OF DECISION MAKING IN CASE REVIEW
  - A. Presentation - Professor Sharon Fairly, from the University of Chicago Law School, presented on Decision-Making in Police Misconduct Matters. (*Timestamp 27:59*)
  - B. Public Comment - None
  - C. Discussion (*Timestamp 1:57:37*)

- VII. DISCUSSION BY OUTSIDE COUNSEL REGARDING COMMISSIONERS, AND OUTREACH
- A. Presentation – Outside Counsel Duane Bennett presented regarding Brown Act violations, commissioner decorum, code of conduct, and implementation of standing committee meeting to the commissioners. . *(Timestamp 2:00:58)*
  - B. Public Comment – None
  - C. Discussion – *(Timestamp 2:23:45)*
- VIII. CHAIR/CABINET REPORT
- The CPP has officially marked its one year as of August 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - The CPP has taken the review of 3 policies that are still in progress.
  - The CPP Protest Policy Hearing will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at the Logan Heights Library.
  - The current issue of time constraints and case review will be a topic of discussion as one of our upcoming meetings.
  - The CPP is currently looking into scheduling a team building retreat sometime in November 2024.
  - We now may have the staffing and structure to have at least three standing committees and will be discussed at the next CPP meeting.
- IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
1. Staffing
    - a. Our new Policy Manager, Aaron Burgess, Jr., started on 9/3 (bio below):  
Aaron Burgess Jr. is a dedicated policy professional with a deep commitment to public service and over a decade of experience in community-based criminal justice reform. As the former Lead Public Safety Advisor for the 3rd District of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, Aaron played a pivotal role in shaping policies that enhance the efficiency of law enforcement agencies serving over 3.2 million residents. His expertise in strategic planning, administrative operations, and coalition building allowed him to successfully navigate the complex landscape of county departments, ensuring the implementation of intelligent policies that improve public safety outcomes. During his tenure, Aaron gained firsthand insights into the challenges within the criminal justice system, particularly in County jails. Through direct interactions with staff and inmates, he recognized the critical need for evidence-based solutions, rehabilitation programs, and holistic approaches to reform. This experience has solidified his commitment to advocating for meaningful reforms that prioritize both public safety and social justice. Aaron's career began as a community organizer for COPE, where he led the ReThink Public Safety San Bernardino County Coalition, a community-driven initiative focused on holding decision-makers accountable through stakeholder engagement and critical conversations. His passion for making a positive impact extends across a diverse range of issue areas, including public safety, mental health, and social finance. Aaron holds a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL) from the University of Pennsylvania, where he gained comprehensive knowledge in nonprofit management, strategic planning, public policy, and advocacy. His education, combined with his practical experience, equips him to lead social impact organizations and drive positive change in his community. Additionally, he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Public Law from UC San Diego, further strengthening his foundation in leadership and public policy.

- b. Our new Senior Management Analyst, Jaime Jacinto, started on 9/3 (bio below):  
Jaime Jacinto joins the Office of the Commission on Police Practices with over 23 years of experience in the City of San Diego. Prior to joining the Office, Jaime worked in the Office of Child and Youth Success, the Public Utilities Department (formerly the Water Department), and the Department of Finance. He brings to the Office of the Commission on Police Practices extensive experience in fiscal and budget administration, procurement, project management, rate setting, and special studies. Jaime assisted various offices manage business operations, create strategic plans and performance scorecards and dashboards, Jaime also assisted with special projects to resolve high water bills and track complaint cases, conduct workforce succession planning and business case evaluations, perform rate studies, and benchmarking studies. Jaime received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration with an emphasis in City Planning from San Diego State University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.
- c. Job offers have been made to two investigator candidates. Both candidates are in the background process. When successfully completed, they are both scheduled to start the last week of October/first week of November.
- d. Pending Recruitments with plans to post the openings by mid-September:  
Deputy Executive Director, General Counsel, and Performance Auditor.
2. UPDATE: CPP Operating Procedures Package  
The HR/Labor Team returned the package (comprised of the 10 draft operating procedures as approved by the CPP) prior to the CPP meeting. Chief Investigator Olga Golub and Executive Director Paul Parker will be reviewing the numerous comments this week and next week and then meeting with the HR/Labor Team to further discuss on Friday, 9/13. Depending on the nature of the comments and/or severity of any identified concerns, they may need to be forwarded back to the Operating Procedures Ad Hoc Committee and then the full CPP for any necessary revisions. They will be presented to the City's monthly Public Safety Committee (PSC) once all drafts are ready. The earliest that will occur will be the November PSC meeting. When the drafts are approved by the PSC, then will be presented to the full City Council. When the drafts are approved by the City Council, it is only then that the meet-and-confer process can begin with the impacted union(s). It is anticipated that the meet-and-confer process will be lengthy.
3. Meeting with Risk Management  
Executive Director met with the City's Risk Management Director Angela Colton and requested financial payout information pertaining to SDPD pursuits. Colton is compiling the information, but it is not specifically categorized as pursuit related. She will do her best to provide what she can, Executive Director Paul Parker may need to go through all SDPD payouts and try to narrow it down.
4. UPDATE: Training  
Executive Director Paul Parker is currently working with the City's Human Resources personnel to add all new Commissioners to the City's training portal, Success Factors. Once that occurs, a few basic City-mandated trainings will be assigned to those Commissioners who have yet to complete them, the most important of which is a two-hour "Sexual Harassment" course. The "CPP Overview – Part 1" virtual presentation given twice by Duane Bennett within the past month covering the Brown Act, Confidentiality, NACOLE Code of Ethics, and Closed Session Requirements will be uploaded to the portal and assigned to the few Commissioners who have yet to take the training. Professor Fairley's "Process of Decision Making"

from the 9/4 CPP meeting will be uploaded and assigned to those Commissioners who were not present. Duane Bennett's overview, also from 9/4 CPP meeting, will be uploaded and assigned to those Commissioners who were not present.

5. Meeting with City Auditor and Staff

In preparation for hiring our Performance Auditor, Executive Director Paul Parker met with City Auditor Andy Hanau and his executive team to learn about the SDPD audits his team has conducted over the past few years.

6. Polling for CPP Retreat dates

Commissioners will be polled via email for preference of possible CPP Retreat dates in January 2025, as one topic to be discussed at the Retreat will be CPP goals for 2025. Also to be discussed will be a follow-up on Duane Bennett's discussion during the 9/4 CPP meeting, specifically focused on team-building and navigating the growing pains of a new commission.

7. UPDATE: Community Engagement

Community Engagement Coordinator Yasmeen Obeid is diligently working to get Executive Director Paul Parker into the community. Ms. Obeid has coordinated meetings with three community groups. A few other community group meetings are scheduled for the second and third weeks in September. Executive Director Paul Parker will keep the CPP in the loop regarding outreach efforts.

X. PRETEXT STOPS UPDATE

- A. Update – Chair Ada Rodriguez updated the Commission that the first meeting was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm via zoom. The Committee developed a rough draft with an introduction and potential recommendations to start with. The draft was reviewed and shared feedback amongst the committee. Commissioner Flores has been tasked with updated and editing the current rough draft. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Doug Case will be scheduling meeting and request contact information. All Commissioners will need to arrive prepared with a list of ideal recommendations based on their research with a deadline of October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Public Comment: None
- C. Discussion - None

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

XII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.