



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Council President Georgette Gómez,
Members of the City Council

FROM: Brandon Hilpert, Chair, Community Review Board on Police
Practices
via Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director, Community Review
Board on Police Practices

DATE: October 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Urgent Need for CRB Appointment/Reappointment Confirmation

On October 6, 2020, Mayor Kevin Faulconer submitted his appointments/reappointments to the City Council and Community Review Board on Police Practices (CRB). The Board respectfully and urgently requests your prompt attention to confirm these eleven Board members (four reappointments and seven appointments who have gone through the CRB's recruitment and selection process).

At its October 27, 2020 Open Session Board meeting, the CRB voted 13-0-1 to encourage the City Council's urgent action to confirm the appointments.

Currently, our Board is operating with just 16 of our 23 members. Unless the City acts quickly to confirm Board member appointments/reappointments, the Board may soon become unable to function, and the review of community complaints against SDPD officers will be delayed for an extended period of time. This would be a grave disservice to the residents of San Diego and contrary to the public demand for community oversight of the San Diego Police Department.

To elaborate:

- The number of cases considered by so far by the CRB in fiscal year 2021 is more than triple the amount considered by the CRB during the same time period in fiscal year 2020. The CRB currently has a backlog of 59

cases waiting to be reviewed and voted upon. To address this backlog, our all-volunteer board has doubled our closed sessions - now meeting weekly, rather than bi-weekly to review cases. It is vital we have a full board to assist in our City Charter mandated review of these complaints. Over the past five months, SDPD's Internal Affairs has added three sergeants to investigate police complaints. At the same time, the CRB has dropped from seven to five review teams due to some members being unable to go into Internal Affairs to conduct reviews due to COVID-related health concerns. With more cases being added due to recent protests and increased awareness of police activities, a lack of Board members to review cases will prevent us from completing the review of complaints within our 90 days target.

- Should we fail to reach quorum of 12 members, Board meetings cannot be held. As an all-volunteer Board, members may be unable to attend meetings due to employment conflicts, illness, medical appointments, vacations etc.
- Each case reviewed must have at least 10 votes in order to resolve/close a case. In an event where a case has split votes, community complaints against officers will not be able to be closed by the CRB, delaying officer discipline with sustained findings. (This becomes even more of a concern if we just barely met quorum.)
- If Measure B passes, the current CRB will become the interim Commission, and the City Council will not be able to make appointments for any vacancies until an implementation ordinance is adopted. We are being told the implementation ordinance may take between 12-18 months. (For reference, the much simpler Measure G implementation ordinance took 18 months.)
- Three current Board members are officially termed out, having completed their eight years of service and one member chose not to be reappointed. However, per CRB Bylaws, all four have offered to remain until they are replaced.
- Lastly, the seven new appointees still need to complete our comprehensive training on case review and SDPD policy and procedures before they can fully review complaints on behalf of the Board.

By quickly confirming the appointments, the CRB will have a complete Board for the first time in several years. The CRB urgently encourages the City Council to docket the confirmation of appointments/reappointments without delay so that the confirmation can be made prior to the certification of the

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election results, enabling civilian oversight of the police to continue uninterrupted in the event Measure B passes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619-548-8002 or our Executive Director, Sharmaine Moseley at 619-533-3432.



Brandon Hilpert, Chair
Community Review Board on Police Practices

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Joel Day, Director, Office of Boards and Commissions
Members of the City Council
Members of the Community Review Board on Police Practices