



Commission on Police Practices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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City of San Diego Commission on Police Practices Selects New Independent Outside Legal Counsel

SAN DIEGO (May 4, 2022) - The City of San Diego Commission on Police Practices (Commission) announces the appointment of Duane E. Bennett as new Independent Outside Counsel. Mr. Bennett has been a practicing Attorney for 39 years. Mr. Bennett has extensive experience in governmental law, employment, contracts, land use, insurance, civil rights, and civil litigation. He was the former Oceanside City Attorney and Port Attorney/General Counsel for the Port of San Diego. Mr. Bennett was the first African American appointed as City Attorney in the County of San Diego. He also served as an Assistant City Attorney, Police Legal Advisor and Deputy District Attorney.

Commission Chair Brandon Hilpert was excited about the appointment of Mr. Bennett. ***"After an exhaustive search, the Commission enthusiastically selected Mr. Bennett to serve as our new outside legal counsel. Not only does Duane bring a wealth of knowledge to the Commission, but also invaluable personal experience to community-based police oversight. We are delighted to have him on our team and look***

forward to working with him as we continue to develop our roles and responsibilities for the community." The selection and appointment of the Commission's outside legal counsel



was made possible by the passage of Measure B by voters in 2020 and the City fully funding the Commission's budget requests.

Outside Legal Counsel Duane E. Bennett stated, "I am honored to be able to assist the Commission on Police Practices in its investigatory and oversight role. I believe that the goal is the same for the Commission and Police Department - to ensure appropriate investigations into critical incidents, while maintaining public safety, accountability, due process, equal protection and the civil rights of all citizens."

Mr. Bennett has been actively involved in litigation and consultant related to civil rights, due process, and equal protection involving law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. He has conducted workplace investigations in the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego as well as numerous internal investigations for governmental agencies. Mr. Bennett served many years for the Riverside County Sheriffs' Association and County of Riverside deciding disciplinary matters and grievances. He has also taught law enforcement courses in the states of Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana.

Even though retired, Mr. Bennett has expanded his private law practice as an experienced arbitrator, mediator and litigator handling employment and commercial disputes involving governmental agencies, financial institutions, and more. He arbitrates and mediates for the American Arbitration Association and serves on the arbitration panel for the San Bernardino Civil Service Commission. Mr. Bennett also serves as outside counsel to San Diego County Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB).

To learn more about the Commission on Police Practices new outside counsel Duane E. Bennett, visit [Duane E. Bennett](#) to check out his LinkedIn account.

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