

City of San Diego
Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 924
San Diego, CA 92101

October 12, 2017

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Police Chief Recruitment Selection Panel

Honorable Mayor,

On September 25, 2017, the Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations (CAB) unanimously voted to recommend that recruitment for San Diego's next police chief be a more open and transparent process.

Maintaining secrecy of those chosen by City officials for the selection committee is contrary to the transparency we seek. CAB recognizes common practice throughout the country is to conceal the names of those in police chief selection committees; however, it is time for San Diego to demonstrate its leadership and innovation by conducting the process in a more transparent matter. The current strategy is perceived by the community as another closed session meeting that is disingenuous in promoting improved relations between the community and the San Diego Police Department.

Furthermore, if secrecy is maintained, the community will feel as if they had minimal input into the selection process, thus minimizing their trust in the process. These negative community feelings would likely be an obstacle for the selected police chief and could negatively impact their effectiveness.

CAB requests the following changes to the recruitment process:

1. Two members each from CAB, the Citizen's Review Board on Police Practices, and the Commission on Gang Prevention be voting members of the selection committee.
2. All members of the selection committee to be publicly identified prior to commencement of the selection process.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian Pollard

Barry Pollard, Chair
Citizens Advisory Board on Police/Community Relations

cc: Council President Myrtle Cole
Councilmember Barbara Bry
Councilmember Lorie Zapf
Councilmember Chris Ward
Councilmember Mark Kersey
Councilmember Chris Cate
Councilmember Scott Sherman
Councilmember David Alvarez
Councilmember Georgette Gomez