

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES**

**Monday, August 25, 2025**

**4:40pm-6:10pm**

**AD HOC CASE REVIEW AGENDA**

**Procopio Towers  
525 B St., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 1725  
San Diego, CA 92101**

The Commission on Police Practices (Commission) meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code Section 54953 (a), as amended by Assembly Bill 2249.

The Commission business meetings will be in person and the meeting will be open for in-person testimony. Additionally, we are continuing to provide alternatives to in-person attendance for participating in our meetings. In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may also participate via telephone/Teams.

**In-Person Public Comment on an Agenda Item:** If you wish to address the CPP Standing Committee on an item on today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker slip before the Committee hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard. Each speaker must file a speaker slip with the CPP staff at the meeting at which the speaker wishes to speak indicating which item they wish to speak on. Speaker slips may not be turned in prior to the day of the meeting or after completion of in-person testimony. In-person public comment will conclude before virtual testimony begins. Each speaker who wishes to address the Commission must state who they are representing if they represent an organization or another person.

For discussion and information items each speaker may speak for up to three (3) minutes, subject to the Committee Chair's determination of the time available for meeting management purposes, in addition to any time ceded by other members of the public who are present at the meeting and have submitted a speaker slip ceding their time. These speaker slips should be submitted together at one time to the designated CPP staff. The Committee Chair may also limit organized group presentations of five or more people to 15 minutes or less.

**In-Person Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda:** You may address the Standing Committee on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker slip. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Standing Committee to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Standing Committee may add the item to a future

meeting agenda or refer the matter to the CPP. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Committee Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item to appropriately manage the meeting and ensure the Standing Committee has time to consider all the agenda items. A member of the public may only provide one comment per agenda item. In-person public comment on items not on the agenda will conclude before virtual testimony begins.

**Written Comment through Webform:** Comment on agenda items and non-agenda public comment may also be submitted using the [webform](#). If using the webform, indicate the agenda item number you wish to submit a comment for. All webform comments are limited to 200 words. On the [webform](#), members of the public should select Commission on Police Practices (even if the public comment is for a Commission on Police Practices Committee meeting).

The public may attend a meeting when scheduled by following the attendee meeting link provided above. To view a meeting archive video, click [here](#). Video footage of each Commission meeting is posted online [here](#) within 72 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.

Comments received no later than 8 am the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission on Police Practices. Comments received after the deadline described above but before the item is called will be submitted into the written record for the relevant item.

**Written Materials:** You may alternatively submit via U.S. Mail to Attn: Office of the Commission on Police Practices, 525 B Street, Suite 1725, San Diego, CA 92101. Materials submitted via U.S. Mail must be received the business day prior to the meeting to be distributed to the Standing Committee.

If you attach any documents to your comment, they will be distributed to the Standing Committee in accordance with the deadlines described above.

### **Late-Arriving Materials**

This paragraph relates to those documents received after the agenda is publicly noticed and during the 72 hours prior to the start of, or during, the meeting. Pursuant to the Brown Act, (California Government Code Section 54957.5(b)) late-arriving documents, related to the Commission on Police Practices' ("CPP") meeting agenda items, which are distributed to the legislative body prior to and/or during the CPP meeting are available for public review by appointment in the Office of the CPP located at Procopio Towers, 525 B Street, Suite 1725, San Diego, CA 92101. Appointments for public review may be made by calling (619) 533-5304 and coordinating with CPP staff before visiting the office. Late-arriving documents may also be obtained by email request to CPP staff at [commissiononpolicepractices@sandiego.gov](mailto:commissiononpolicepractices@sandiego.gov). Late-arriving materials received prior to the CPP meeting will also be available for review, at the CPP public meeting, by making a verbal request of CPP staff located in the CPP meeting. Late-arriving materials received during the CPP meeting will be available for reviewing the following workday at the CPP offices noted above or by email request to CPP staff.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez)
- II. ROLL CALL (Executive Director Bart Miesfeld)
- III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT
- IV. SELECTION OF AD HOC CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIR
- V. REVIEW OF PAST CASE REVIEW PROCESS (Information Item)(Commissioner Doug Case)
- VI. PRESENTATION OF PAST TRIAL CASE REVIEW PROCESS (Information Item) (Chief Investigator Olga Golub)
- VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
- VIII. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CASE REVIEW PROCESS
- IX. NEXT MEETING – TBD
- X. ADJOURNMENT

**Materials Provided:**

- Relevant Governing Documents
- BB Memo Re Case Review
- Email Proposal from Commissioner Alec Beyer

**Access for People with Disabilities:** As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information to be made available in alternative formats, and any requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting the Commission at (619) 236-6296 or [commissiononpolicepractices@saniego.gov](mailto:commissiononpolicepractices@saniego.gov).

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodation required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services, or interpreters require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. The city is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly.

## **Memo from First Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez**

In considering any possible modifications to the current (trial) case review process, the following should be considered:

### **1. Our Purpose**

CPP Bylaws

Article II. Purpose, Mission, Duties, Powers, and Objectives

Section 1. Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the Commission on Police Practices is to provide an independent investigation of officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, and an unbiased evaluation of all complaints against the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and its personnel, in a process that will be transparent and accountable to the community. The Commission will also evaluate and review SDPD policies, practices, training, and protocols and represent the community in making recommendations for changes. The mission of the Commission is to hold law enforcement accountable to the community and to increase community trust in law enforcement, resulting in increased safety for both the community and law enforcement.

### **2. Professional Staff**

The Office of the Commission on Police Practices currently employs three professional investigators with a collective 24 years of experience in their field. They have elevated the professionalism of *all aspects* of the case review process during this trial period. The reports are far more thorough, the extensiveness of the review of materials from IA has been excellent, the questions asked of IA have been thoughtful, and the presentations of complicated information have been outstanding. Our utilization of our professional staff has positively transformed this aspect of the Commission's work cannot be overstated.

### **3. Commissioner Education**

Case review is arguably the best way for Commissioners, especially new Commissioners, to gain intimate knowledge of SDPD policies, areas for improvement, trends of concern, handling of cases by Internal Affairs, use of BWCs, and a myriad of other things relating to police practices.

### **4. Commissioner Participation**

It is essential that all Commissioners participate in case review beyond the final review in closed sessions. While we are all volunteers with varying levels of time and availability, the work of the Commission requires all of us to commit to participating in the case review process.

### **Proposal**

- All Commissioners should be assigned to a case review group and be required to work with staff to fully review a minimum of four (4) cases per year.
- Commissioners in their first year should be required to conduct a full review a minimum of eight (8) cases.
- Investigators should work with review groups to schedule meetings for group discussions.

- Investigators should “work up” each case review and have a draft report available for group review at least seven (7) days prior to the group’s meeting.
- Case review group members should be given at least seven (7) days’ notice prior to a group meeting and should be required to prepare for the meeting in advance by reviewing all the relevant materials (IA Reports, Investigator’s Reports, BWCs, interviews, other documents).
- Case review groups, in collaboration with investigators, should identify which documents and segments of BWCs are essential to the understanding of the case, and provide the entire Commission with a “Must Read/Review” list one week prior to the closed session meeting when the case will be presented.
- Investigators should continue to present cases in closed session unless a member of the review group requests to be the presenter.
- Brief BWC segments critical to the review group’s recommendations may be presented in closed session meetings if the review group determines it is necessary to the understanding of the case.
- Staff should track Commissioner participation in case review groups, and provide quarterly participation reports to the Chair.

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## Draft proposal of revised case review structure

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From Beyer, Alec

Date Tue 7/29/2025 2:45 PM

To Conde, Alina

Good afternoon, Ms. Conde,

Could you please forward this draft of proposed modifications of case review structure to the cabinet and whoever is on the Ad Hoc Committee re Case Reviews?

Thank you.

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1. Our focus, our guiding principle and goal in case review is ***to hold San Diego Police Department Personnel accountable***. That is expressly stated in our mission statement and that is where our thoughts and energies must be directed.
  2. Commissioner involvement in case review is essential to be able to provide thoughtful, objective, reasoned analysis of police misconduct.
  3. Commissioners must have hands-on experience in evaluating raw data (bwc videos, arrest reports, witness statements, etc) and relating that data to the relevant SDPD policies and procedures to be able to provide professional analysis.

### Case Review:

1. Every Commissioner to be assigned to a Case Review Group; **(maybe excluding members of the Cabinet as they have additional duties already?)**
2. Every Case Review group to select a Commissioner to act as lead **(or moderator or chair)** of the group;
3. Every Case Review group to include a named investigator;
4. Every Commissioner to be primary drafter of at least one case annually;
5. Once the primary drafter (whether Commissioner or Investigator) has completed the basics, all group members to participate in developing the final report to be presented to the full Commission;
6. The Case Review Group will hold a meeting **(Teams or Zoom or whatever the group prefers)** on every case reviewed to foster discussion and different viewpoints prior to presentation of the completed report to the full Commission;
7. Completed report presented to Commission at Closed Session for Commissioner questions, observations, comments and vote. \*
8. Technology permitting, important/significant excerpts of BWC can accompany the presentation of the completed report to the Commission.

# Case Review Process Overview

Chief Investigator Olga Golub for the Ad Hoc Case Review Committee 8.21.2025

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## Case Review Approach prior to January 2025

- Commissioner-led approach (legacy from the Community Review Board, CPP predecessor)
- After inheriting a backlog of cases from the CRB, in November 2023, the Commission voted to resume reviewing unexpired cases. The process involved Commissioners splitting in groups
- Chief Investigator coordinated the process by assigning Commissioners to groups, assigning cases, creating case order for Commission meetings, etc.
- Chief Investigator was assigned to one of the Review Groups as a staff member participating with Commissioners in the case review process

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## Case Review Approach prior to January 2025

- Each Group had an assigned Group lead/mentor
- Each Group member reviewed the entire contents of IA case file (which includes but is not limited to IA report, body-worn camera (BWC) and other video footage, various police documentation, audio interview recordings and other) on their own time
- Review of all evidence was required prior to the meeting
- The Group members would meet to discuss the case and arrive to conclusions and make recommendations on each allegation
- A designated Group member drafted the report with the entire Group reviewing it and making edits/comments

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## Case Review Approach prior to January 2025

- The Group also identified relevant videos to be watched by all Commissioners prior to the closed session Commission meeting
- The Group's report and identified videos were shared with all Commissioners in advance of the closed session
- A designated Group member presented the case to the entire Commission in closed session

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## Case Review Approach after January 2025

- In January 2025, the Commission voted to adopt a new approach to case reviews on a trial basis for 6 months
- The new approach is Investigator-led
- There are still Commissioner groups formed
- However, all the preliminary work (thoroughly reviewing all the evidence, drafting the report, and making a recommendation to the Commission on each allegation) is done by Investigators
- Chief Investigator reviews evidence in every case and every Investigator report before it is shared with the assigned Commissioners\*
- When review is completed and report is drafted, the Investigator emails the assigned Commissioners letting them know it is ready for their review

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## Case Review Approach after January 2025

- Assigned Commissioners review the case materials on their own time
- Once the draft case report is shared with the assigned Commissioners, they have the opportunity review it and offer their input/feedback via several means
- Commissioners are able to offer feedback by connecting with the Investigator via phone, email, Microsoft Teams, scheduling an in-person meeting, or attending the Investigator's office hours
- Should the Group wish, they may schedule a meeting to discuss the case

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## Case Review Approach after January 2025

- Once Commissioner feedback is collected, Investigator finalizes the report
- Commissioners reviewing the case endorse Investigator report once all the issues are addressed
- Investigator identifies relevant video evidence to be shared with the entire Commission
- Investigator presents the report in closed session with the Group's recommendations to the Commission

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## Commissioner Endorsement during the Trial Period

- 69.57% of Investigator reports received at least 1 Commissioner endorsement
- 30.43% of Investigator reports did not receive any Commissioner endorsement
- 8.7% of Investigator reports received endorsements from every member of the assigned Case Review Group

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# Case Review Data for the Trial Period

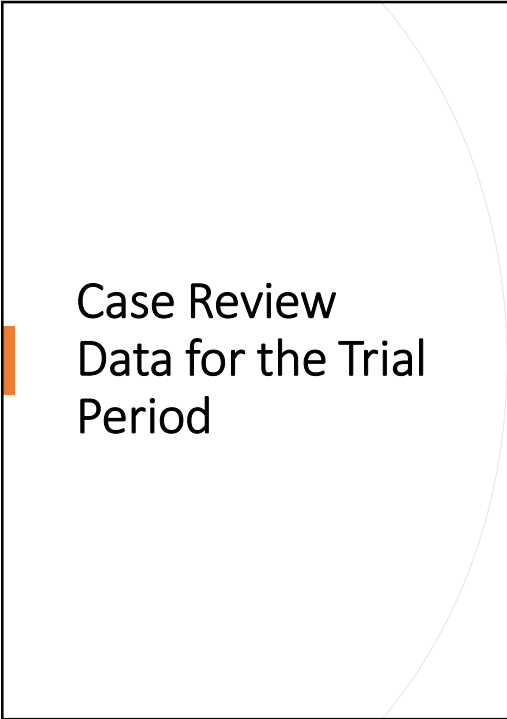
- Between January and August 2025, the Commission reviewed **46** cases and **8** Discipline Memos
- The Overall Average Days to SOL for Commissioner-led review was **83** days, whereas the Overall Average Days-to-SOL for Investigator-led review was **92** days\*
- Cases up for review in January and February 2025 had SOL in March (90 or less days)
- Cases up for review in August had SOL in January and February (150+ days before SOL)
- As of August 21, 2025, the Commission has **1** case to review

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# Case Review Data for the Trial Period

Month	Average Days to Review Case	Number of Cases Reviewed
July 2024	134	3
August 2024	205	4
September 2024	76	4
October 2024	135	5
November 2024	69	6
December 2024	64	1
January 2025	248	6
February 2025	99	6
March 2025	78	6
April 2025	86	5
May 2025	78	8
June 2025	59	7
July 2025	61	5
August 2025	65	6

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## Case Review Data for the Trial Period

From first half of FY 2025 to  
second half of FY 2025,  
investigator-led process increased  
number of case reviews by 65.21%  
(from 23 to 38)