

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

Southeastern Live Well Center
2728 Sixth Ave.,
San Diego, CA 92103

Click <https://youtu.be/gEiiArhpYyI> to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners' Present:

Chair Ada Rodriguez

1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez

2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré

Alec Beyer

David Burton

Doug Case

Lupe Diaz (arrived at 5:53pm)

Dwayne Harvey

Elizabeth Inpyn

Dan Lawton

Darlanne Mulmat

Daniel Torres

Excused:

John Armantrout

Imani Robinson

Steve Chatzky

Armando Flores

Absent:

Cheryl Canson

Michael Major

CPP Staff Present:

Bart Miesfeld, General Counsel

Aaron Burgess, Policy Manager

Olga Golub, Chief Investigator

Ethan Waterman, Investigator

Ching-Yun Li, Investigator

Alina Conde, Executive Assistant

Jon'Nae McFarland, Complaint Coordinator

Yasmeen Obeid, Community Engagement Coordinator

Luqmaan Bohkary, Volunteer Law Clerk

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Ada Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:13pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - A. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025

Motion: 2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré moved for approval of the amended CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2025. 1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0-0.
Yeas: 1st Vice Chair Benitez, 2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré, Burton, Case, Harvey, Inpy, Lawton, Mulmat, and Torres
Nays: None
Abstained: None
 - B. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2025

Motion: 1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez moved for approval of the amended CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2025. Commissioner Dan Lawton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 9-0-0.
Yeas: 1st Vice Chair Benitez, 2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré, Burton, Case, Harvey, Inpy, Lawton, Mulmat, and Torres
Nays: None
Abstained: None
- IV. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

David Rico (Timestamp 19:30): Urged the Commission to review Christopher De Arman's case, highlighting issues such as coaching in interviews and missing body camera footage from sixteen officers.

Francine Maxwell (Timestamp 22:55): Criticized the lack of reports from the Chief Investigator on trends noticed from the backlog and emphasized the need for transparency and community trust. Called for better communication and responsiveness from the Commission, including regular checks and responses to emails.

Darwin Fishman (Timestamp 25:45): Expressed concerns about the transparency of the Executive Director search process, mentioning difficulties in obtaining information about the community panel involved in the search. Suggested that the Commission should disclose the members of the community panel to ensure accountability and transparency.

Ilka Weston (Timestamp 28:55): Spoke on behalf of Christopher De Arman, criticizing the police's handling of the incident and calling for a reenactment of the event to demonstrate the errors made by law enforcement. Questioned the use of hollow point bullets and the lack of immediate medical aid provided to Christopher.

Cindy Nuñez (Timestamp 32:39): Represented United Families for Justice and spoke on behalf of Christopher De Arman's family, emphasizing the need for accountability and answers regarding the incident. Highlighted the failure of the police to provide life-saving aid to Christopher and the role of the police dog in his death.
- V. CHAIR REPORT (Chair Ada Rodriguez)

Acknowledgment of Community Concerns: Chair Ada Rodriguez acknowledged the community's frustration with the perceived lack of progress from the Commission and emphasized the need for better communication.

Challenges and Progress: Highlighted the challenges faced by the Commission, including high turnover and the transition from CRB to CPP, which required setting a strong foundation. Mentioned that despite these challenges, the Commission has persevered and continues to make progress.

Meetings and Discussions: Discussed a recent five-month review meeting with SDPD Chief Scott Wahl and his leadership team, where they addressed the department's response to findings and recommendations. Specific areas discussed included mental health and trauma-informed interview training, language access oversight, and miscellaneous complaint notifications.

Policy and Procedure Consistency: Highlighted inconsistencies in SDPD policy and procedure updates, noting that many policies on the website appear outdated. Emphasized the need for revisions to ensure policies are in line with department standards.

Shared Database and Reporting: Discussed the feasibility of a shared database for better coordination and emphasized the importance of this initiative. Mentioned the semi-annual report and procedures, which are still under review.

Meeting Agenda Posting Issue: Addressed a failure to post the September 17 meeting agenda 72 hours in advance due to a glitch and assured that measures are being taken to prevent this from happening again.

Community Retreat Clarification: Clarified the purpose of a Commission retreat, emphasizing that it is for creating a learning experience to maximize the Commission's ability to execute its mandate effectively.

- VI. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (Interim Executive Director Bart Miesfeld)
- City Auditor Meeting:** Interim Executive Director Bart Miesfeld met with the city auditor, who will present at the next regular business meeting on November 5th.
- Informational Items:** The OCPP is researching the Brown Act to clarify public comment rules on informational items.
- New Commissioners:** Three new commissioners have passed their background checks and are being onboarded, expected to participate by November 5th.
- Nominations for New Commissioners:** The Council President's office is reopening nominations for four remaining seats, starting October 6th for three weeks.
- Complaint Statistics:** In August, the Commission received 97 complaints, with 69 filed with the Police Department and 28 with the Commission. Ten of these were out of jurisdiction.
- VII. POLICY MANAGER/CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT OUT
- Policy Committee Update:** The Policy Committee is preparing for a strategic planning summit on November 1st, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- Agenda for Policy Retreat:** The agenda includes a staff roundtable, an overview of policy tools and processes, a discussion on Sagon Penn led by Committee Chair Imani Robinson, and external collaborators speaking before a strategy session.
- Final Policy Committee Meeting:** The final Policy Committee meeting for the year is scheduled for October 23rd.
- Pretext Policy:** The Policy Committee plans to prioritize pretext policy at the beginning of the year.

Public Access: The November 1st meeting will be a Brown Act meeting, open to the public and live-streamed.

Sagon Penn Discussion: The discussion on Sagon Penn is intended to provide perspective on the creation of the CRB, the first iteration of the CPP.

VIII. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT OUT

A. Live Calendar Training and Information

Community Presentations: Community Engagement Coordinator Yasmeen Obeid reported that the Commission is actively conducting community presentations across San Diego at various neighborhood associations, community planning groups, nonprofit organizations, churches, and other groups.

Participation Request: Commissioners are encouraged to sign up for upcoming presentations to ensure adequate representation.

Presentation Details: Commissioners will join to observe and, if comfortable, share their personal experiences on the Commission. Presentations typically start with PowerPoint explaining the Commission's role, followed by personal testimonies.

Upcoming Presentations: Specific dates and times for upcoming presentations were discussed, with Commissioners volunteering for various slots.

Community Engagement: The Commission seeks to connect with the community and welcomes invitations to events.

IX. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

A. SDPD Response to Recommendations to Improve the Department's Complaint Investigations System (Presented by Chief Scott Wahl, Captain Julie Epperson, and Assistant Chief Tina Williams) (*Timestamp 1:03:47*)

Overview: Captain Julie Epperson presented the SDPD's response to the Commission on Police Practices (CPP) recommendations for improving the complaint intake process.

Recommendations and Responses: The SDPD received 14 formal recommendations and agreed to pursue or partially pursue 12 of them.

Portal Improvements: The SDPD implemented all recommended improvements to their complaint portal, enhancing accessibility, usability, and transparency.

Policy Updates: Changes to policies are subject to a meet and confer process with the San Diego Police Officers Association, which may take time.

Francine Maxwell (*Timestamp 1:28:17*): Expressed her concerns about the SDPD's response to the Commission's recommendations and the need for greater transparency and accountability.

Jeane Wong (*Timestamp 1:30:42*): Discussed concerns about the handling of complaints involving federal agents and the need for police officers to properly identify and document interactions with these agents.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Mentorship Program (*Timestamp 2:10:35*):

Purpose: The mentorship program aims to help new Commissioners acclimate to their roles by pairing them with seasoned Commissioners. This initiative is designed to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. No action taken. The Mentorship Program is cleared to start.

Implementation: The Training committee is overseeing the implementation of this program, and it is highly encouraged for all new Commissioners to participate.

Tasha Williamson (Timestamp 2:08:43): Emphasized the importance of the Commission taking their role seriously, especially in overseeing a department perceived as having internal corruption. She urged the Commission to ensure new commissioners are fully prepared and understand their responsibilities

B. Sagon Penn Podcast Linked on Agenda

Francine Maxwell (Timestamp 2:14:20): Criticized the inclusion of the Sagon Penn incident in the retreat agenda, suggesting it was a distraction and recommending the Commission focus on more recent and relevant cases. She emphasized the need for the Commission to address current issues and avoid re-traumatizing the community.

XI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee – The Committee met on September 24th and only got through the review of the Bylaws.
- B. Rules Committee – No reports at this time.
- C. Community Outreach Committee – No reports at this time.
- D. Policy Committee – No reports at this time.
- E. Recruitment Committee – Committee Chair Doug Case submitted a written report. Applications are now open for the available seats in District 8, Youth, and two Low-to-Moderate Income positions. We are looking for more Commissioners to serve on Committees.
- F. Training and Continuing Education Committee – Committee Chair Darlanne Mulmat reported that the next meeting will be on October 16th at 5:00 PM. The agenda includes discussions on mentorship for new commissioners and providing POBAR and Implicit Bias training.

XII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Committee – Committee Chair Darlanne Mulmat reported that the committee is working on selecting a new executive director. The second round of interviews will be scheduled for October 4th, with six candidates participating. The third round of interviews will be with the City Council, but no date has been set yet.
- B. Case Review Committee – No reports at this time.

XIII. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave De Arman (Timestamp 2:31:30): Spoke regarding excessive redactions on Case Investigation.

Patricia De Arman (Timestamp 2:32:30): Stated recommendations to support:

- End the criminalization of marijuana as it is legal in California.
- Stop pretext stops or hot stops on individuals who have finished parole or probation and do not have an active warrant.
- Set a time frame for ex-felons to regain their rights, including protection from warrantless searches and seizures.
- Prohibit canine deployment on shot victims and for compliance checks on wounded individuals.
- Render life-saving medical aid immediately once a victim has been subdued.
- Equip every patrol car with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- Consider verbal compliance as compliant.
- Ban the use of hollow point ammunition.
- Order victims to drop their weapons prior to shooting them every time.
- Avoid pursuits for minor infractions or equipment malfunctions, including broken third brake lights.

- Prohibit the use of OC spray on victims if it puts the driver or pedestrians at risk.
- Ensure medical aid is not refused once a victim has been subdued.
- Remove all officers involved in the killing of Christopher De Arman from patrolling Southeast San Diego and Barrio Logan.
- Stop allowing officers to call for excessive backup for minor ticketing offenses and targeting individuals based on prejudice alone.

Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 2:37:01*): Tasha suggested that the department should improve its transparency website by including officers' names and incident numbers to make it easier for the community to find relevant information. She questioned the department's claim of waiting for the Commission's review before imposing discipline, suggesting that they should not play semantics with the community. She also pointed out that during COVID-19, policies were changed without the need for meet and confer processes, indicating that the department can make necessary changes independently when required.

Francine Maxwell (*Timestamp 2:41:27*): Proposed that the Commission should hold a town hall to educate the public and improve communication, suggesting the use of Zoom to accommodate more participants and facilitate open discussions. Francine highlighted the importance of having a liaison from the San Diego Police Department present at every meeting to ensure direct communication and transparency. She mentioned that the community deserves better customer service and transparency from the police department, and that the Commission should take proactive steps to address these issues.

XIV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – None

XV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.