



**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, January 7 2026**

Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market Street,
San Diego, CA 92114

Click <https://youtu.be/rEe8rx1ikf4> to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners' Present:

Chair Ada Rodriguez	Elizabeth Inpyn
1 st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez	Dan Lawton
John Armantrout	Darlanne Mulmat
Doug Case	Imani Robinson
Steve Chatzky	Chenyang Rickard
Lupe Diaz	Walter Sener
Armando Flores	Daniel Torres
Dwayne Harvey	

Excused:

2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré
David Burton
Kriby Knipp

Absent:

Cheryl Canson
Michael Major

CPP Staff Present:

Olga Golub, Chief Investigator
Aaron Burgess, Chief of Staff/Policy Manager
Ethan Waterman, Investigator
Ching-Yun Li, Investigator
Jon'Nae McFarland, Complaint Coordinator
Yasmeen Obeid, Director Community Engagement & Internship Programs

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Ada Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Chief of Staff/Policy Manager Aaron Burgess conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - A. CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025
Motion: Commissioner Imani Robinson moved for approval of the amended CPP Regular Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025. Commissioner Steve Chatzky seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 11-0-1.
 Yeas: Benitez, Case, Chatzky, Harvey, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Rickard, Sener, Torres, Robinson
 Nays: None
 Abstained: Armantrout

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Direct Community Engagement & Internship Programs Obeid)

In person Public Comment - **Francine Maxwell (Timestamp 07:06):** The public comment underscored the critical importance of fostering transparency, accountability, and mutual trust between the Police Department and the community. It further emphasized the necessity for the Commission to formally request a meeting with the Mayor of San Diego to address concerns related to accountability and efforts to rebuild public trust. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding insufficient data accessibility and the reported mistreatment of San Diego residents.

In person Public Comment – **Darwin Fishman (Timestamp 10:03):** The speaker expressed appreciation for the Commissioners’ continued efforts and underscored the importance of consistent attendance at Commission meetings. Recommendations were offered to reinstate community bus tours and to include guest speakers as part of future meeting agendas. Additionally, the speaker emphasized the necessity of submitting data requests and engaging in substantive discussions regarding concerns about over-policing in specific neighborhoods.

Virtual Public Comment – **James Donaghe (Timestamp 13:37):** Concerns were raised regarding ongoing parking and traffic enforcement issues in the Sherman Heights community. The comments highlighted instances in which police officers reportedly failed to address illegal parking and related community concerns. Additionally, the need for improved communication and strengthened accountability from the Police Department was emphasized.

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR, CHIEF OF STAFF, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

- A. CHAIR REPORT – (Timestamp 16:50)
 1. **Proactive Posture:** The Commission is moving forward with a proactive approach, addressing difficult issues without waiting for perfect conditions.
 2. **Commissioner Conduct:** Commissioners are reminded to remain impartial, evaluate cases based on evidence, and avoid public commentary on specific incidents until the review process is complete.
 3. **Complaint Process Documentation:** Efforts are made to document the complaint and case process to ensure clarity and transparency for the public.
 4. **Community Concerns:** The community has raised concerns about policing practices, response times, and the lack of visible internal accountability. The Commission will continue to push for transparency and accountability

5. **Leadership Transition:** Interim Executive Director and General Counsel Bart Miesfeld has resigned, and a new Executive Director is expected to be appointed within the month of January. The Commission's work will continue without interruption.
 6. **Chair's Commitment:** Chair Ada Rodriguez emphasized commitment to truth, transparency, and serving the community with intention and integrity
- B. Chief of Staff/Policy Manager- No report was available.
 C. Interim Executive Director- No report was presented.
 D. Director of Community Engagement and Internship Program- No report was presented.

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES – EXECUTIVE (Chair Rodriguez), RULES (1st Vice Chair Benitez), COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Direct Community Engagement & Internship Programs Obeid), POLICY (Commissioner Robinson), RECRUITMENT (Commissioner Case), TRAINING (Commissioner Mulmat)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee – No committee report was presented.
- Policy Committee - No committee report was presented.
- Recruitment Committee - No committee report was presented.
- Training and Continuing Education Committee (*Timestamp 25:51*) - CPP Investigator Ching-Yun Lee is currently developing a digital version of the Commissioner Handbook, which will include embedded links and be released in the near future. The committee plans to incorporate community perspectives into upcoming meetings, beginning with a presentation from Mid-City CAN. Efforts are also underway to coordinate a community bus tour, though progress has been delayed due to resource limitations. In addition, the committee is actively pursuing implicit bias training for the Commission and is communicating with several organizations to identify a suitable training provider. The recent “Inside SDPD” session was noted as particularly valuable and will be opened to additional Commissioners during future offerings. The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for February 12th at 5:30 PM.

IV. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTATION

Mid- City Community Advocacy Network (CAN) (*Timestamp 29:30*)

- Mid- City Community Advocacy Network is a non-profit organization based in City Heights, San Diego. Their mission is to create a safe, productive, and healthy community through collaboration, advocacy, and organizing.
- **Theory of Change:** The organization believes in organizing, collaborating, and advocating to create community change. They involve community members, including young people, multi-generational groups, and multilingual families, to build power and campaigns.
- **Key Achievements:** The organization played a central role in establishing the City Heights Farmers Market and several community gardens. It also implemented a network of farmers markets capable of accepting EBT benefits. Additionally, the organization successfully advocated for the creation of the Youth Opportunity Pass, which provides free public transportation to individuals under the age of 18. The organization further supported the formation of the Commission on Police Practices and encouraged youth participation in its work.
- **Current Initiatives:** Current efforts include advancing a proposal for a permanent regional no-cost transportation pass for young people up to 24 years of age, as well as exploring key housing and development issues. The organization is also working to safeguard cannabis tax revenues to ensure continued investment in youth development. Additional initiatives focus on strengthening civic health and expanding access to health-related resources.

- **Momentum Teams:** The organization has three momentum teams focused on transportation, juvenile justice, and the Youth Council. These teams are made up of volunteers from various communities in San Diego.
- **Programs and Opportunities:** Mid City CAN offers free programs and leadership opportunities, including youth internships, leadership training, summer art programs, and outdoor experiences.
- **Community Engagement:** The organization emphasizes building a sense of belonging and supporting community members through social outings, listening sessions, and restorative practices.

Virtual Public Comment – James Donaghe (Timestamp 44:22): Raised concerns about homophobic content found in documentation related to the Sherman Heights Community Center and Mid-City CAN. Mentioning that this content disenfranchises various minority communities and highlighted issues of discrimination and illegal activities targeting specific groups.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Committee Meeting on January 21, 2026 (Chair Rodriguez) - Tabled

B. Communication Protocol (Commissioner Case) (Timestamp 55:11)

- **Communication with the Chief of Police:** Communication between the Commission and the Chief of Police is conducted by the Chair or the Executive Director. Commissioners may submit input, which the Chair will incorporate into correspondence for Commission review and approval prior to submission. Copies of all correspondence and any responses are distributed to all Commissioners, except in cases where confidentiality applies.
- **Policy or Procedural Matters:** Communication related to policy or procedural matters is conducted by the Chair or the Executive Director. Individual Commissioners may raise issues through CPP meetings or committee meetings.
- **General Inquiries and Requests:** Commissioners may submit general inquiries through the SDPD Community Liaison, ensuring transparency by copying the Chair and Executive Director.
- **Communication with Internal Affairs (IA):** Questions pertaining to Internal Affairs (IA) investigations must be submitted in writing to the CPP investigator assigned to the case. General correspondence with IA is handled by the Chair or the Executive Director.
- **Communication with City Officials:** Official communication with the City Attorney, Mayor, and City Council is carried out by the Chair or Executive Director. Commissioners may contribute input for items to be included in such communications. Commissioners may also provide testimony at public hearings in their individual capacity, but they may not represent the Commission unless expressly designated to do so.
- **Communication with CPP Staff:** Routine requests may be directed to staff members or committee chairs. However, the assignment of tasks to staff must be coordinated through the Executive Director. Legal inquiries should be submitted to the General Counsel, while more complex legal matters must be routed through the Executive Director.
- **General Guidelines:** Commissioners are expected to use their City of San Diego email accounts for all CPP-related correspondence. Members must adhere to the established code of conduct for boards and commissions. The Chair serves as the official spokesperson for the Commission and may delegate this responsibility as appropriate.

Motion: Commissioner Doug Case moved for approval of the amended Communication

Protocol. Commissioner Daniel Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-0.

Yeas: Armantrout, Benitez, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpy, Lawton, Mulmat, Rickard, Sener, Torres, Robinson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Virtual Public Comment – James Donaghe (*Timestamp 1:23:32*): Expressed concerns regarding the difficulty of correlating Internal Affairs (IA) case numbers with specific incidents.

C. Case Review Procedure (*Timestamp 1:25:40*)

- **Formation of Case Review Groups:** Chief Investigator Olga Golub coordinates the formation of case review groups, ensuring that each Commissioner participates in at least four reviews annually.
- **Investigator's Role:** Each group is led by a CPP Investigator who reviews the entire case file, including body-worn camera footage and other relevant materials. The investigator then summarizes the findings and shares them with the group.
- **Draft Report:** Before the group meeting, each Commissioner drafts a report using suggested revisions. These drafts are discussed and finalized during the group meeting.
- **Closed Session Meeting:** The finalized report is presented at the closed session meeting of the full Commission.
- **Timelines:** The procedure includes specific timelines for sharing information and finalizing reports to ensure a structured and efficient review process.

Motion: 1st Vice Chair, Bonnie Benitez moved for approval of the Case Review Procedure. Commissioner Darlann Mulmat seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-0.

Yeas: Armantrout, Benitez, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpy, Lawton, Mulmat, Robinson, Rickard, Sener, Torres

Nays: None

Abstained: None

D. Discussion and Possible Approval of Memorandum to City Leadership Regarding Oversight Limitations, Community Concerns, and Measure B Implementation (Chair Rodriguez) (*Timestamp 1:28:44*)

- Chair Ada Rodriguez explained that the memo addresses systemic issues affecting public trust, transparency, and the effectiveness of oversight. It highlights the lack of timely acknowledgment from city leadership, ongoing limitations restricting independent oversight, and patterns in publicly available incidents raising questions about internal accountability. Chair Ada Rodriguez agreed to take the feedback to the Executive Committee for further refinement and emphasized the importance of having the Commission's support to strengthen the memo.

In Person Public Comment – Patricia De Arman (*Timestamp 1:46:44*): Spoke on the importance of accountability and transparency within the San Diego Police Department. She expressed frustration over the lack of action and accountability for officers involved in misconduct. Patricia also urged the Commissioners to be more involved and vocal about these issues, stressing the need for independent and unbiased reviews. She also called for the inclusion of impacted families and advocates in the Commission's work.

In Person Public Comment – Sena (*Timestamp 1:50:09*): Spoke in regards to the need for better community engagement and education about the Commission's role and responsibilities. They mentioned that many community members are unaware

of the Commission's existence and its functions. She also urged the Commission to prioritize underserved communities like Barrio Logan and Southeastern San Diego, which face significant issues and have been historically neglected.

In Person Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 1:52:29*): Advocated the representation from the City Mayor's office, District Attorney's, and Chief's office when there is any incident with extreme use of force by officers. Urged the Commission to send the memo.

Virtual Public Comment – James Donaghe (*Timestamp 1:56:07*): Spoke about the need for better police accountability, addressing historical and ongoing discrimination, and ensuring inclusive support for all community members.

E. Request for SDPD Traffic Division Presentation on SoToxa Deployment, Procedures, and Oversight Considerations. (*Timestamp 2:00:11*)

- **Purpose of Request:** The Commission seeks a comprehensive presentation from the SDPD Traffic Division on the deployment and use of the SoToxa oral fluid testing device during traffic stops.
- **Procedures and Training:** Understanding the written procedures, training materials, and deployment guidelines for SoToxa.
- **Consent and Refusal Protocols:** Clarification on what officers are instructed to do when a driver consents or refuses the test.
- **Accuracy and Limitations:** Information on the device's accuracy, limitations, and any safeguards to prevent misuse.
- **Community Impact:** Ensuring that the community is informed about the use of SoToxa and its implications for civil liberties and privacy.

Motion: Commissioner Imani Robinson moved to request SDPD Traffic Division to present the SoToxa Deployment Procedure, and oversight consideration. Commissioner Daniel Torres seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 14-0-0.

Yeas: Armantrout, Benitez, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpy, Lawton, Mulmat, Rickard, Sener, Torres, Robinson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

In Person Public Comment – Dave De Arman (*Timestamp 2:02:57*): Expressed concerns about the accuracy of SoToxa, noting that it indicates the presence of a drug above a certain level but does not measure actual impairment. He also mentioned the potential for false positives and the invasion of privacy, leading to unreasonable search and seizure. He pointed out the high cost of the devices (\$5000 each) and suggested that funds should be used for training officers in de-escalation techniques and proper responses to mental health crises.

In Person Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 2:04:39*): Emphasized the importance of educating the community about the consequences of refusing tests like SoToxa, as refusal can lead to license suspension. She stressed the need for clear communication about the legal requirements and expectations from the police department

F. Community Roundtable Debrief (Director Community Engagement & Internship Programs Yasmeen Obeid) (*Timestamp 2:13:11*)

- Held on December 8, 2025 at Malcom X Library with a total of 54 attendees including 44 community members and 10 staff and commissioners
- Objective: Gather community experiences with SDPD, identify the top priority of the CPP in 2026, and educate the community on the role and scope of CPP.
- Key Themes from Community Feedback: Complaints about SDPD, including issues with transparency and body cam footage access; Concerns about pretext stops, use of force, and medical aid intervention; Issues related to youth contact, immigration

enforcement, and CPP visibility and trust-building; Discussions on SDPD budget allocation, surveillance technology, and civil liberties.

- Next Steps: The feedback will be used to inform the CPP's priorities and actions in 2026, and a detailed report will be published.

In Person Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 2:32:45*): Expressed appreciation for the roundtable and emphasized the need for more such meetings, both in-person and online, to accommodate all community members, including elders and those unable to attend in person. She stressed the importance of educating the community about the Commission's role to ensure that discussions remain relevant and focused.

In Person Public Comment – Sena (*Timestamp 2:34:24*): Emphasized the need for virtual attendance options for future meetings to accommodate those with scheduling conflicts. She also highlighted the importance of prioritizing underserved communities like Barrio Logan and Southeast San Diego, which face significant issues.

NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:

In Person Public Comment – Dave De Arman (*Timestamp 2:39:28*): Expressed concerns about the City Mayor and Chief of Police not attending the Community Roundtable, and frustration regarding the lack of non-lethal practice within SDPD.

In Person Public Comment – Patricia De Arman (*Timestamp 2:41:32*): Spoke in regards to over policing and exaggerated enforcement in Barrio Logan.

In Person Public Comment – Sena (*Timestamp 2:43:47*): Spoke in regard to SoToxa and lack of community education on their rights. Sena also mentioned reducing the harm and racial profiling from SDPD.

In Person Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 2:47:30*): Spoke in regards to the community's frustration with the lack of accountability and the continued presence of officers involved in misconduct. Tasha mentioned that the community is tired of excessive force, false arrests, and the promotion of officers who have committed serious offenses.

G. CLOSED SESSION (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

a. Public Comment

In person Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 2:18:24*): Urged the CPP to ensure that mandated disclosures are made public and to maintain independence from the SDPD. Suggested that the CPP should meet with the POST Commission and the Civil Grand Jury to leverage their support in holding officers accountable.

b. Chair Ada Rodriguez led CPP into Closed Session

c. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss complaints, charges, investigations, and discipline (unless the employee requests an open public session) involving San Diego Police Department employees, and information deemed confidential under Penal Code Sections 832.5832.8 and Evidence Code Section 1040. Reportable actions for the Closed Session items on the agenda will be posted on the Commission's website at www.sandiego.gov/cpp or stated at the beginning of the Open Session meeting if the meeting is held on the same day.

i. SDPD Feedback on Case-Specific Matters – None

ii. Review of Internal Affairs Investigations

a. Case 2025-0012 (CATI)

b. Case 2025-0064 (CATI)

iii. Discipline Memos – None

H. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION- Chair Ada Rodriguez reported that there was no

reportable action.

- I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – No commissioner comments were provided for this item.
- J. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.