



**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

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

Click https://youtu.be/Kr8rA_Ftgqo to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners' Present:

Chair Ada Rodriguez
1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez
John Armantrout
David Burton
Doug Case
Steve Chatzky
Lupe Diaz (arrived at 5:30pm)

Armando Flores (arrived at 5:30pm)
Dwayne Harvey (arrived at 5:10pm)
Kirby Knipp
Darlanne Mulmat
Imani Robinson (arrived at 5:05pm)
Walter Sener
Daniel Torres

Excused:

2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré
Elizabeth Inpyn
Dan Lawton
Chenyang Rickard

Absent:

Cheryl Canson

CPP Staff Present:

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Ada Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Policy Manager Aaron Burgess conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.

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

Chair Report – (*Timestamp 2:57*)

- Chair Ada Rodriguez announced that Roger Smith has become the new Executive Director and shared her positive impressions of his initial engagement and priorities. The key priorities for Executive Director Roger Smith's first 90 days include streamlining internal workflows, establishing clear communications, reviewing processes, and making connections with SDPD, the city, commissioners, and the public.
- Chair Ada Rodriguez met with SDPD leadership and discussed several staffing updates, the launch of a mobile training team, and the use of SoToxa devices for oral drug testing in the field. Concerns were raised about the lack of posted hours and accessibility at the Southeastern division front counter, and a request has been made to address this issue with SDPD. SDPD reported progress in meeting their overtime budget for fiscal year 2026, attributing it to tighter oversight and data-driven decisions.
- Attended the Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego meeting, emphasizing the importance of community participation in oversight work.
- Requested for staff to provide commissioners with appropriate access to complaint folders.

Executive Director (*Timestamp 30:09*) – New Executive Director Roger Smith provided a brief overview of his extensive experience in civilian oversight across various cities and his plans to meet individually with Commissioners to understand their perspectives.

Chief of Staff/Policy Manger- No report was presented.

Director of Community Engagement and Internship Programs- No report was presented.

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

In person Public Comment – Darwin Fishman (*Timestamp 17:31*): Addressed concerns about the \$30 million lawsuit settlement, highlighting that it has not been part of the public discussion despite its significant amount. He suggested that the Commission has a role in opening up this discussion and ensuring transparency and accountability in police oversight.

Virtual Public Comment – Erik Anderson (*Timestamp 21:05*): Mentioned difficulty hearing due to background noise and expressed interest in future meetings.

Virtual Public Comment – Tasha Williamson (*Timestamp 23:57*): Raised concerns about the District Attorney's handling of cases involving law enforcement officers. Request for the CPP to take action and accountability.

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)

- Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met on January 28th to review meeting logistics, agenda planning, and brainstorm 2026 Commission goals.
- Rules Committee – No committee report presented.
- Community Outreach Committee – No committee report presented.
- Policy Committee – No committee report presented.
- Recruitment Committee – No committee report presented.

- Training and Continuing Education Committee – The Training Committee is scheduled to meet again on February 12th at 5:30pm. Progress has been made on setting up opportunities for Commissioners to attend the "Inside SDPD" event, which previously took place in December. A new event is planned for March, with 15 spots available for Commissioners and staff. Commissioners interested in learning more about police work in person can coordinate with SDPD Community Liaison Manager Lyndsay Winkley to arrange a ride-alongs, which could include various experiences such as being in a patrol car or observing dispatch operations.

NON AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Stephen Chatzky (*Timestamp 28:11*) - Commissioner Chatzky inquired about the reason behind the staffing updates within Internal Affairs (IA), expressing concern about the operational shift.
- Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat (*Timestamp 30:00*) - Commissioner Mulmat expressed interest in hearing more from the new Executive Director, Roger Smith, and suggested that other Commissioners might also want to know more as well.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Positions (Chair Rodriguez) (*Timestamp 33:05*)

Commissioners are required to be part of at least one committee. Commissioners were asked to select their top two committee choices and submit them to Executive Assistant Alina Conde. The current committees and their focuses are:

- Rules Committee: Responsible for internal rules and operating procedures.
- Policy Committee: Researches and recommends policies for the San Diego Police Department based on case reviews and identified issues.
- Training Committee: Focuses on creating informative training for Commissioners to help them perform their duties effectively.
- Recruitment Committee: Recruits candidates for Commission vacancies and makes recommendations to the City Council.
- Community Outreach Committee: Ensures the Commission's work is communicated effectively to the public and builds trust within the community.

B. Appointment of Commissioner Armando Flores as Outreach Chair (Chair Ada Rodriguez) (*Timestamp 45:42*)

Motion: Commissioner Imani Robinson moved for approval of appointing Commissioner Armando Flores as Chair of the Outreach Standing Committee. Commissioner Steve Chatzky seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 13-0-0.

Yeas: Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Knipp, Mulmat, Sener, Torres, Robinson

Nays: None

Abstained: None

C. Recruitment Nomination Plan (Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat) (*Timestamp 47:53*)

- The case review reference sheet is a three-page document designed to provide guidelines and definitions for the case review process.
- The reference sheet aims to offer Commissioners a quick reference during meetings, avoiding the need to bring the entire onboarding binder. It includes definitions and guidelines to help Commissioners understand findings and make decisions during case reviews.
- Reviews should be based solely on the evidence referenced in the Internal Affairs (IA) investigator's report and information known to subject officers at the time of

the incident. If additional evidence is found, the Commission can request IA to consider it in their investigation.

- There was a discussion about the inclusion of racism and slurs in the categories, with a suggestion to revisit and ensure these elements are appropriately addressed in the reference sheet.

The discussion focused on the content and purpose of the reference sheet, as well as suggestions for improvements, but no formal vote was conducted.

In person Public Comment – Darwin Fishman (*Timestamp 49:22*): Raised concerns about the absence of specific language related to racism. He mentioned a past issue where the inability to label cases as racist incidents caused significant division.

Fishman emphasized the importance of including terms like "racism" and "slurs" in the reference sheet to accurately reflect the nature of certain cases.

D. Recruitment Nomination Plan (Commissioner Doug Case) (*Timestamp 58:13*)

- The recruitment nomination plan outlines the process for recruiting and nominating individuals to fill vacancies on the Commission.
- The City Council President's office is responsible for processing applications for vacancies. Applicants can indicate if they are interested in being nominated by the Commission on Police Practices.
- The Recruitment Committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to the full Commission. The full Commission will then vote on the nominations to be submitted to the City Council.
- The plan includes periodic orientation sessions for applicants to understand the Commission's work and expectations.
- The goal is to have a diverse pool of candidates, including those with specific expertise and community representation.

Motion: Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat moved to accept the Recruitment Nomination Plan with the amendment to strike out the paragraph regarding the note about district-assigned seats. 1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 8-5-0.

Yeas: Armantrout, Benitez, Burton, Case, Flores, Harvey, Knipp, Mulmat

Nays: Chatzky, Diaz, Sener, Torres, Robinson

Abstained: None

In person Public Comment – Darwin Fishman (*Timestamp 1:27:00*): Expressed concerns about the potential for different tracks for City Council appointments and the Commission's nominations. He emphasized the importance of having a consistent process for all candidates. Fishman highlighted the need to screen for relationships between candidates and City Council members to prevent appointments based on political favors.

Virtual Public Comment – Erik Anderson (*Timestamp 1:28:40*): Mentioned having difficulty understanding the discussion due to background noise near the microphone, which affected his ability to follow the topic.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

A. Meeting Location Requirements and Guide (*Timestamp 1:32:09*)

The Meeting Location Requirements and Guide outlines the criteria for selecting locations for future meetings. Here are the key points:

- **Operation Hours and Availability**: The location must be available on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 3:00pm-8:30pm, or possibly from 2:00pm-9:00pm for setting up and breakdown. It should be bookable at least three months in advance.
- **Capacity**: The venue should accommodate 50-75 people and support a U-shaped

layout.

- **Technology and Audio Requirements:** The location must have Wi-Fi, microphones, and power outlets.
- **Cost Consideration:** The venue should ideally be low-cost or no-cost.
- **Accessibility and Public Participation:** The location must be accessible to the public and within the city of San Diego limits. Commissioners are encouraged to explore their neighborhoods and suggest potential venues that meet these criteria. Suggestions should be submitted to Jon'nae McFarland, the Administrative Aide.

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

In person Public Comment – **Francine Maxwell** (*Timestamp 1:35:24*): Emphasized the need for precise language, such as "search and seizure" instead of just "search." Raised concerns about the transparency and communication regarding an officer's presence on Teams. Highlighted the omission of terms like "racism" and "slurs" in current documents and urged a review of past minutes to ensure these terms are included. Pointed out the prolonged meet and confer process, stressing the importance of having an attorney to expedite it. Acknowledged the Commission's improved communication with the public, particularly in explaining when they cannot discuss certain topics. Requested a review of current documents to ensure they align with previous standards and include all necessary categories and terms.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.