The City of SAN DIEGO

Commission on Police Practices

COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, August 19, 2026
4:30pm-6:00pm

Procopio Tower
17th Floor, Suite 1725
San Diego, CA 92101

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

CPP Committee Members Present:
Chair Bonnie Benitez
Vice Chair of Policy Ada Rodriguez
Vice Chair of External Affairs David Burton (arrived at 4:43pm)
Vice Chair of Commissioner Development Darlanne Mulmat
Vice Chair of Strategic Planning Armando Flores

Excused:
None

Absent:
None

CPP Staff Present:
Roger Smith, Executive Director
Aaron Burgess, Director of Policy
Alina Conde, Executive Assistant
Olga Golub, Chief Investigator (Virtual)
Ching-Yun Li, CPP Investigator (Virtual)
Ethan Waterman, CPP Investigator (Virtual)
Yasmeen Obeid, Director of Community Engagement & Internship Supervisor (Virtual)

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Bonnie Benitez called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MOTION: Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat moved to accept July 15th, 2026 amended Executive Standing Committee Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ada Rodriguez seconded the motion. The vote passed 3-0-0.
Yeas: Flores, Mulmat, Rodriguez
Nays: None
Abstention: None

IV. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT
- Blair Beekman (Virtual) (***Timestamp 4:29***)

V. NON AGENDA COMMENTS FROM CHAIR BONNIE BENITEZ **(Timestamp 7:48)**
- The chair acknowledged upcoming onboarding of new commissioners and encouraged participation in the mentor program, noting its value for newcomers and plans to revisit it at future meetings.
- The chair discussed recent questions about bylaws, clarifying that formal bylaws matters should be directed to the Rules Committee.
- A proposal to shift some standing committees to an ad hoc model due to volunteer capacity constraints was mentioned, with more details to be provided once formally presented.
- The chair requested that approved minutes from recent standing committee meetings be attached to business meeting agendas for transparency and easier access by community members and commissioners.
- The chair addressed concerns about surveillance technology, specifically ALPR use, explaining the commission's authority versus the Privacy Advisory Board and City Council, and clarifying the commission's role in holding the department accountable for policy implementation and compliance.

NON AGENDA COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROGER SMITH **(Timestamp 15:31)**
- An update was provided on the status of the audio-visual contract: a review panel has been created, with the second meeting scheduled soon; no specific timetable for implementation yet.
- Announcement of hiring Susan St. John as General Counsel, who brings experience with the Brown Act, California Public Records Act, and administrative hearings; she will start in early September.
- A meeting was held with Chief Wahl to begin establishing a memorandum of understanding for implementing operating procedures from the meet and confer process; concurrent discussions of both matters will occur as procedures are finalized.

VI. ACTION
A. Pretext Stop Proposal **(Timestamp 18:30)**
1. Public Comment
   - Blair Beekman (Virtual) (***Timestamp 31:35***)
   - Patricia De Arman (Virtual) (***Timestamp 36:19***)
   - Cat (Virtual) (***Timestamp 39:26***)

- ❖ Dave De Arman (Virtual) (***Timestamp 42:00***)
- ❖ Tasha Williamson (Virtual) (***Timestamp 44:30***)

2. Commissioner Comment **(Timestamp 18:30)**
   MOTION: Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat moved to adopt the Policy Committee's Pretext Stop Proposal and take it to the full Commission business meeting as presented. Commissioner Ada Rodriguez seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.
   Yeas: Burton, Flores, Mulmat, Rodriguez
   Nays: None
   Abstention: None

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee – Tabled
B. Policy Committee – Tabled
C. Community Outreach Committee – Tabled
D. Training Committee – Tabled

VIII. FUTURE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

- Commissioner Ada Rodriguez – To formally Alina to add a regular agenda item tracking formal requests made to the department and responses received, starting with future executive committee meetings.

<u>Action Items:</u>

- Executive Assistant Alina Conde will start attaching all approved standing committee meeting minutes to the upcoming regular business meeting agendas.
- To encourage experienced commissioners to participate in the mentor program for new commissioners, with outreach planned after the September meeting.
- Director of Policy Aaron Burgess to present the approved pretext stop policy recommendations to the full commission at the upcoming Saturday meeting on September 22, 2026.

IX. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 16, 2026

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Written Remarks of Commissioner Armando Flores

SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD · AGENDA ITEM VIII.A — PRETEXT STOP RECOMMENDATIONS

To:	San Diego Commission on Police Practices, c/o the Executive Director (custodian of records)
From:	Armando Flores, Commissioner (submitted in my individual capacity)
Date:	August 22, 2026
Re:	Written remarks, as prepared for delivery, on Agenda Item VIII.A — Final Draft Pretext Stop Recommendations

> **Status of this submission.** This document is an informational written communication submitted for the record of Agenda Item VIII.A. It is not a motion and requests no action by its receipt. It reflects the views of the author in his individual capacity and is not a statement or position of the Commission on Police Practices or of any of its committees. It may be received and placed on file without a vote, by unanimous consent (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th ed., 4:58–4:63; § 51; 48:5(5)).

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chair.

I am not a lawyer. I am a data scientist and a software engineer — I measure things for a living. And I researched the hell out of these recommendations: every draft we wrote, the history of pretext stops in this city, the data we quote. I did that work because I *support* them. I want them to pass — and I want them to be real. Because **a reform you cannot measure is a promise you cannot keep.**

Here is my concern. **We are treating the absence of our performance auditor as a reason to ask this department for less — when it is the strongest reason to ask for more.** We were told: don't worry, we'll follow up. Colleagues — we have known **for years** that accountability means hiring that auditor, and that desk has never been filled. **There is no one to follow up.** In my profession, when there is no one to run a check by hand, you do not skip the check. **You build it into the system, so it runs on its own.**

And we know exactly what "we'll follow up" gets us, because we ran that experiment. **Chief Scott Wahl promised this Commission — on camera — a pursuit report every quarter.** On Wednesday we learned our staff reached out, and reached out — and were **ghosted.** Not one report has ever arrived. It is on video. **He cannot pretend he did not say it.**

Yet this draft answers that history by asking for **less than the promise they broke.** Our first draft had a scoreboard — quarterly counts, published numbers, outlier flags, in its own words *"without waiting for complaints."* It was deleted. What is left? An internal review no one outside the department will ever see. Complaints — which most people never file, so **silence will look like success.** And RIPA — a once-a-year, statewide report that can prove the wound is real but **cannot tell us whether our medicine is working.** That is not oversight. **That is asking the police to police themselves** — grading their own homework, and filing the grade where no one looks.

And Los Angeles — the very city this draft cites as its model — shows us the difference. LA can tell you **exactly** how many pretext stops it has made since its 2022 policy — roughly 760,000 stops, about one in ten of them pretextual — who was stopped, and what the searches found. Why? **Because LA audits and publishes the numbers** — its Inspector General, its Police Commission. That is how LA learned its policy was falling short, and went back this year to strengthen it. Under this draft, **San Diego would simply never know.**

And the money tells you what the City believes. **$712 million** for the police budget this year. **$116 million** in settlements this decade — **$42 million last year alone** — while libraries and parks were cut. The one thing never funded is the position built to prevent those payouts. Our own Grand Jury said it: we do not have the staff to do our job. **A check that cannot count is no check at all.**

And to the families who have come to this room for two years: **this is not another delay.** You have waited too long for a policy that works — **you should not be handed one that cannot prove it does.**

So, two asks. This version never came through our Policy Committee — **we have not met since May 20th. First: send it back**, with a date certain — and bring it back with what our first draft always had: **a fifth recommendation.** Recommendation Five: **measure it.** Each quarter, from the stop data the department already collects under RIPA, count the stops and the searches — who was asked, and what was found. Flag the officers far outside the pattern. And report it to this Commission, **in public.** No new forms. No new burden. **A scoreboard that runs on its own. Second: go on record — to the Mayor, to the Council: fund and fill our Performance Auditor.** This is not a new idea. Measure B orders this Commission to review and evaluate this department's compliance — and a Performance Auditor has been on our office's own budget sheet since the year this office opened. **The mandate is in the Charter. The position is on paper. The desk is empty.** And the price? On the City's own pay scale, this position tops out at **$162,000 a year — two-hundredths of one percent** of this year's police budget. Last year's settlements alone would fund it for **two and a half centuries.** It is time to stop knowing it quietly.

The people who come back to this room are not asking for perfection. They are asking for **proof.** Proof is my profession — **and today it can be this Commission's too.** Let

us hand our neighbors a change they can feel — **and the power to prove we made it real.** Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Armando Flores

Commissioner, San Diego Commission on Police Practices
Vice Chair for Strategic Planning; Chair, Rules Committee; Member, Policy Committee (titles for identification only)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION · SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD · ITEM VIII.A · AUGUST 22, 2026