



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

College Police Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2023

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Zoom

Committee Members Present: Joel Peterson, Kimberly Tapia, Jack Beresford, Nadia Sayeh, Caitlin Tiffany, Kimberly Palek, Anna Liza Manzo, Neill Kovrig, Joseph Ramos, Aaron Burgess, Nancy Schumaker, Patrick Velasquez

Committee Members Absent: John Parker, Daniel Brislin, Darius Spearman, David Mehlhoff, John Bromma, Kevin Branson, Phoebe Truong, Gerald Brown

Meeting commenced 1:03 pm

Nadia asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented, approved with unanimous consent.

Nadia asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 12, 2023, approved with unanimous consent as distributed.

Patrick inquired about a presentation referenced by Vice Chancellor Peterson during the last meeting and asked if that could be available to the committee. Vice Chancellor Peterson confirmed the presentation was made during the recent recorded Board meeting and would be viewable by the public.

Chief Ramos shared updates on notable police investigations, incident calls and trainings. Dispatch recorded 805 calls for service during the month of May; there is an ongoing investigation at Mesa regarding a series of indecent exposure; there was a noteworthy incident at Mesa involving students fighting and an incident at City where a combative subject locked himself in one of the restrooms. Recent campus and community involvement included ALICE training at City; security provided during Commencement for Miramar, City and Mesa; a fundraiser for an officer battling illness; and, a community podcast that included local pastors and law enforcement leaders. Various officers completed over nine different specialized trainings during the month of May.

Chief Ramos shared the SDCCD website has a link to the form and directions to file a complaint. Anyone can walk into one of our police facilities and pick up the forms from the front counter. He confirmed that he reviews all complaints submitted. He also shared that all complaints are documented so they can provide the number of complaints received and the outcomes when audited by the Department of Justice. He added that typically complaints are investigated by supervisors and those supervisors have to attend courses to understand all applicable rules and laws.

Vice Chancellor Peterson provided a brief update on the on-campus officer attire pilot program. The attire is ready to present once the survey is ready. We are just waiting on the new fiscal year and allocation of funding to engage with the consultant.

Chief Ramos read the "Conducted Energy Device" Policy Part 3 draft (Use of the Taser Device), the third of three sections of the standard policy and procedure that will be presented with the tasers. The draft outlined the following: actions following deployments, medical treatment to the subject person, documentation following discharge; items included on the taser device report form, information to be included in the reports, and supervisor responsibilities.

After reading Part 3 of the draft, Chief Ramos addressed the following questions:

- If pepper spray is deployed first, can it be flammable if contacted by a deployed taser? *He has not heard of this previously but will look into the pepper sprays we used to make sure there aren't issues.*

Chief Ramos shared that the police department has made their goals and needs clear to the subcommittee working on the mental health professional position. Vice Chancellor Peterson shared that the consensus is clear that we all want PERT professionals available. He acknowledged that throughout the process we have engaged with all the mental professionals we have district wide; and, also identified and engaged with resources outside of the district. He shared that the police department should be considered a client to the mental health professionals and be able to use them to augment some of the traditional police responses. They will be best supported if employed and supervised inside the student services organization under the Vice Chancellor so they have also come up with a draft position description. The next steps will be to put this into a formal proposal to do a reorganization to change and add positions. The grant funding that was identified years ago is no longer readily available. Vice Chancellor Peterson is currently discussing the funding issue with the Chancellor's Cabinet. The mental health professional position is now a matter of district leadership to determine how best to move forward with the hiring so they can make a proposal to the board and identify funding.

Nancy shared that an out of state law enforcement agency uses iPads in the field when a mental health professional is unavailable to respond to calls in person with officers so that subjects can video conference with a clinician during a crisis. She inquired if this could be considered.

The committee members present agreed that alternating days and times for future meetings works. Meetings will resume in September when day and time has been confirmed.

Vice Chancellor Peterson let the committee know that according to the bylaws, the committee is required to submit a written report at the end of the academic year to the Chancellor that alludes to observations, recommendations or summaries of the activities during the past year. A draft outline will be circulated to the committee to review and provide feedback before presenting to the Chancellor.

Aaron shared that he is aware of information coming soon from the County of San Diego and considered a collaboration with this committee; he asked about having an open session prior to the start of future PAC meetings for people to speak freely about ideas or points for collaboration if they can be added as agenda items. Patrick supported this suggestion.

Chief Ramos let the committee know that if anyone has questions specific to him or that he can answer, they are welcome to contact him by email during the summer if they don't want to wait until the next meeting. He also encouraged the committee to view the recorded police workshop that was recently presented to the Board.

Nancy inquired about the status of the district and police department investigation into an allegation that occurred several months ago. Vice Chancellor Peterson stated that the complaint did not originate through the police department but rather the district was named as part of a lawsuit so the matter was handled through the Chancellor's office. He further explained that if there is a court ruling of fault where policy violations occurred and damages are owed, the district may then have grounds to open an independent investigation; but, without such court finding that policies or violations occurred inside the district there may not be a separate independent investigation. Chief Ramos further clarified that procedurally the police department is obligated to investigate all complaints received and if a person involved in the discipline decision is named, the department has the option to internally investigate the matter or outsource the investigation. He also referenced California Senate Bill 2 that requires the police department to report findings, especially if egregious on any sworn officer, so it can be reviewed and determined if it requires decertification. Our district is in compliance with SB2, having two liaisons that participate in the required state trainings as it relates to confidentiality matters. The police department is currently awaiting next steps, if any, regarding the allegation(s).

The next meeting will be in September.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm