



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

College Police Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

Committee Members Present: Joel Peterson, John Parker, Kimberly Tapia, Nadia Sayeh, Darius Spearman, Jessica Varnado-Swall, Stacy Surwilo, Kimberly Palek, Anna Liza Manzo, Miski Abdi, Saigel Ghotra, Joseph Ramos, Nancy Schumaker, Patrick Velasquez

Committee Members Absent: Jack Beresford, Caitlin Tiffany, Neill Kovrig, Adriana Dos Santos, Ixchel Diaz, Aaron Burgess, Aimee Gallagher

Meeting commenced 2:03 pm

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

VPAS Parker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2023, approved with unanimous consent as distributed.

VPAS Parker addressed recent emails with research articles sent to him and recommended future items be agendized for full transparency and inclusiveness to the entire committee.

Chief Ramos shared updates on notable police investigations, incident calls and trainings. During the month of November, the police department received 524 calls for service to the communication center. Officers initiated 2,228 services, mostly security checks (84 alarm responses). They assisted with 64 staff and student assists including escorts, doors, vehicle assistance, and 6 classroom call box responses. They conducted 40 crime and or arrest reports including 7 misdemeanors, 2 felonies, 14 citations, and facilitated 5 protective custody for mental health evaluations. One noteworthy incident included a notification from the San Diego Police Department of a request for assistance from the California State Parole Office in locating a known high-risk registered sex offender in violation of parole terms believed to be in the area of City College. Within one hour of receiving the request for assistance, the college police officers located and detained the subject near the City College library without incident. On November 7th the entire command, including staff and Chief Ramos, attended an informative residential training webinar regarding student housing in preparation for providing security with the upcoming housing project. On November 17th several team members participated in an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) sponsored webinar titled Israel Hamas War Implications for College Campuses that provided information for balancing and counter-managing freedom of speech with potential hate speech. College police have seen some free speech activity on the campuses but not encountered any problems, they are prepared to ensure everyone's freedom of speech rights and safety are maintained. Recent community events included representation during the National Latino Peace Officers Association Annual Thanksgiving Dinner that included more than 40 children and their families from our underrepresented communities. Miramar College and ECC held successful Coffee With A Cop events during November. Chief Ramos was asked if any arrest or detention incidents in the past month included any injuries to district college police officers and he was not immediately aware of any.

On November 13th an email was sent to the College Police Advisory Committee stating that the members in attendance during the November 3rd meeting motioned and approved the formation of a subcommittee to research and review independent taser studies, and, any members interested in volunteering with this subcommittee should contact Patrick and Caitlin. VC Peterson stated that Aimee had expressed interest in participating with this subcommittee but was not able to attend today's meeting. The members in attendance motioned and unanimously approved the formation of this subcommittee to include the following members: Patrick, Caitlin, Nancy, Stacy, Darius (and Aimee as a non-voting member, pending her volunteer confirmation). The newly formed subcommittee will determine and identify a spokesperson by the next

committee meeting. VC Peterson will provide access to the research the district has collected for the subcommittee to review and report on during the next meeting.

The committee discussed the existing process for filing a complaint against the SDCCD Police. Chief Ramos shared he is not involved in independent investigations but that the district does have a complaint process in place with numerous options available to public citizens and or students to file a complaint against the police officers and department. Individuals can make complaints in writing, by email, in person, or by telephone. Several laws and restrictions regulate all complaints received. When complaints are received by our district, Chief Ramos is responsible for assigning it to an investigator who then has several complex timelines to get all of the information gathered and reviewed to determine violations. He shared that there have been four (4) complaints to SDCCD Police over the last five (5) years and they were all courtesy complaints. Body worn cameras and radio transmissions were quickly investigated by SDCCD, but an independent agency would not have had immediate access to review all relevant information.

VC Peterson added that when a complaint is submitted, a sworn peace officer who has the appropriate training, qualifications and certifications reviews the complaint. Above the sworn officer's position is civilian non-sworn peace officer management. If our civilian management reviews these investigations and is dissatisfied with the findings, or if the complainant comes separately to civilian management and it says that they are dissatisfied, then the civilian leadership as a district can authorize to establish a separate and independent investigation of the complaint investigation. If persons are unsatisfied with management decisions, the Board has full authority to take action. Although our district currently has an existing second balance and an independent process, we are required by law to have the SDCCD police department do their investigation.

Chief Ramos further clarified that in some circumstances even if there is a law enforcement agency investigation and the agency has the ability and authority to conduct the investigation, a separate agency may be needed to investigate. For example, an officer involved shooting investigation would be separated by the shooting incident itself, a criminal investigation and an internal investigation.

Darius addressed the rationale behind the resolution calling for an independent process for student complaints against SDCCD police harassment, abuse or misconduct by sharing that even though there is a low number of complaints over the past five years, he has heard from students that they do not feel comfortable going to the police to file a complaint.

Chief Ramos acknowledged the sentiment behind the resolution and suggested that rather than going to the police station, individuals can also make complaints by email or phone. He supports anyone that wants to request an independent investigation following a complaint but wants everyone to know that once the SDCCD Police Department is removed, the independent review may not be very efficient. The independent agency would not have immediate access to body worn cameras or reports and it may be timely before they can meet to speak with a complainant, where as he can send a sergeant immediately to meet with someone.

Discussions included: police officers having due process rights under labor contracts that could prohibit or delay an independent body from investigating complaints; the initial complaint mechanism; determining if individuals are hesitant to speak with police officers or if they are just questioning the integrity of the complaint process; the broader issue of police mistrust; identifying ways to bridge the gaps between college police and their campuses.

The committee agreed to continue the discussion into the next meeting regarding the resolution calling for an independent process for student complaints against SDCCD police harassment, abuse or misconduct as read to the Board on May 22, 2023; to be followed by a committee recommendation to accept, not accept or reject the resolution.

Committee confirmed availability to meet on January 12, 2024 at 11:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm