

HONOLULU POLICE COMMISSION
City and County of Honolulu
State of Hawaii
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 19, 2018

CALL TO ORDER Acting Chair Levinson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, in Conference Room A at the Honolulu Police Department Alapai Headquarters

PRESENT Steven H. Levinson, Acting Chair
Shannon L. Alivado, Member
Karen Chang, Member
Jerry Gibson, Member
Carrie K. S. Okinaga, Member

James K. S. Yuen, Executive Officer
Denise W. Wong, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Erin Marie Yamashita, Secretary

EXCUSED Loretta A. Sheehan, Chair
Richard T. Grimm, Member

ALSO PRESENT Susan Ballard, Chief of Police
John D. McCarthy, Deputy Chief of Police
Spencer Jim On, Legal Liaison

ASCERTAINMENT
OF QUORUM Counsel Wong ascertained that a quorum was present

Acting Chair Levinson informed those in attendance that Chair Sheehan and Commissioner Grimm would not be attending the meeting today due to illness. Due to their absence and the importance of a full Commission for action and discussion Agenda Item VI 3., Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019, and Item IX. E, Evaluation of the Chief of Police, are deferred.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Ballard and officers from HPD assisted the Make A Wish Foundation in granting a wish this morning. Officers lined up to give their well wishes and the Specialized Services Division brought out the vehicles, dogs, and robots in order to grant the wish of a young man.

Chief Ballard also commended Officer Pojsl who was the solo-motorcycle officer shown in various news stories assisting an elderly person crossing the street. Officer Pojsl blocked traffic for two cycles of the traffic signal in order to make sure the person crossed the street safely.

Body-Worn Camera Update

Chief Ballard informed commissioners that 172 cameras have been issued to date. All officers in District 1 (Urban Honolulu) including the fourth watch and bicycle officers have been equipped with the cameras. Deployment has begun in District 6 (Waikiki) with 60 cameras issued so far and will continue with an additional 50 cameras issued before the end of January 2019. Deployment in District 7 (East Honolulu) will begin in February 2019. Deployments are ahead of schedule, and HPD will be working with the vendor in order to adjust the contract and payment schedule. The initial goal was to have all of the body-worn cameras deployed to patrol by August 2020; however, because the deployment is ahead of schedule HPD is looking at the end of 2019 for completion.

Cell Phone Deployment Update

Chief Ballard informed commissioners there are two parts to the cell phone deployment. The first was to issue cell phones to officers working in the HELP Program. Usage of a cell phone provides officers with an easy way to document homeless persons and to contact service providers.

Patrol officers will receive cell phones in the second deployment in order to make day-to-day activities more efficient. There have been some challenges but HPD is working with the City's Department of Information Technology to remedy the problems in order to conduct a pilot/test by the end of January 2019.

Chief Ballard mentioned features for officers include the ability to connect to the CAD server in order to run checks, check departmental email and other City networks and resources, and have full access to report writing system. Supervisors will be able to access and review police reports, and have all the benefits of a normal cell phone (talk, text, video, and camera). The phones are easier for an officer to carry and allow for an officer to conduct certain checks without returning to their cars to use a mobile data computer.

Chief Ballard mentioned that a second presentation on the Lift program was made to the City Council, and the park locations for the Lift program have been tentatively identified. Meetings with legislators and neighborhood boards will begin in January 2019 and the goal is to roll out the Lift program by March 2019.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Gibson requested clarification on the Lift program and wanted to know if the locations at the various parks would rotate every three months. Chief Ballard said Commissioner Gibson was correct and every 90 days the location would change. She also explained there is some misconception about the program and that a person could remain at the location for 90 days; however, this is not the case. A person would not remain at the location for 90 days, he/she would stay only for the amount of time it took to find housing, which could be between one and two days.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Chang made a motion to approve the November 21, 2018, meeting minutes. Commissioner Okimoto seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on Actions Taken at the Executive Session of November 7, 2018

Commissioner Alivado reported that at the Executive Session of November 7, 2018, commissioners approved the October 3, 2018, executive session minutes and took action on one case involving one complainant and one officer.

Complaint number 18-043 involved one complainant and one officer. The officer was exonerated of the complaints of discourtesy-abusive remarks, overbearing conduct, and threatening due to evidence indicating the officer's actions were proper.

Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Individual Reports on Commission Business

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Creation of Rules or Policies for the Discipline of the Chief of Police

Commissioner Okinaga informed commissioners she has completed consultation with the Department of the Corporation Counsel, and the next step is to meet with Chair Sheehan and Chief Ballard.

Executive Officer's Report

EO Yuen reported there are 71 complaints registered to as of December 18, 2018. Seventeen cases are pending, 19 cases have been referred to the Professional Standards Office, two complaints have been administratively closed, and one complaint was withdrawn. There is one pending request for legal counsel, which is currently being reviewed by COR. As far as the investigator vacancies, the first investigator is scheduled to begin work in January 2019.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:16 p.m., Commissioner Okinaga made a motion to enter into executive session to review agenda items pursuant to HRS 92-5(a), subsections (2), (4), (5), (6) and (8): to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved; to consult with its attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities; to investigate proceedings regarding criminal misconduct; to consider sensitive matters related to public safety or security; to deliberate or make a decision upon a matter that requires the consideration of information that must be kept confidential pursuant to state or federal law, or a court order.

Commissioner Alivado seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Commission returned to the open session at 2:53 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chair Levinson announced the next meeting Honolulu Police Commission will be on January 9, 2019.

Commissioner Alivado requested the vote for the chair and vice-chair be deferred to the January 23, 2019, due to Commissioner Okinaga's anticipated absence at the January 9, 2019, meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:56 p.m., Acting Chair Levinson adjourned the meeting.