

**Minutes of the Community Policing Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 6, 2012
City Hall, Officer John Hege Hearing Room (#3)
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA**

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

The following members were present:

- Chairperson Johnson
- Krista Gulbransen
- Greg Novak
- Vertis Whitaker
- Angie Haller
- John Nichols
- Frank Castro

- Alex Cole-Miller

The following members were excused:

- Jennifer Pae
- Tamera White

The following member was absent

- Jo-Ann Mitchell

Open Forum

There were no speakers for this item.

Approvals:

- **Minutes of the February 2, 2012 meeting:** These minutes were approved at a previous meeting; however there was no quorum present so they must be reconsidered. There was a question about how to count abstentions, which was subsequently answered by the City Attorney's Office. (An abstention should not be counted as a "no" vote. It is the same as not voting). It was moved by Member Gulbransen and seconded by Member Whitaker to approve the minutes.

Motion passed per the vote below:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ○ Vertis Whitaker - aye | ○ Chairperson Johnson - aye |
| ○ Krista Gulbransen - aye | ○ Angie Haller - aye |
| ○ Greg Novak - aye | ○ Jeffrey Cash - aye |
| ○ Alex Cole-Miller - abstain | ○ John Nichols - aye |
| ○ Frank Castro - abstain | |
- **Minutes of the March 7, 2012 meeting:** These minutes were approved at a previous meeting; however, there was no quorum present so they must be reconsidered. The following correction was made to Item #8: It was Jeff Edman not Daniel Swofford who was in attendance, but declined to comment. It was

moved by Member Gulbransen and seconded by Member Whitaker to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed per the vote below:

- Vertis Whitaker - aye
- Krista Gulbransen - aye
- Greg Novak - abstain
- Alex Cole-Miller - abstain
- Frank Castro - abstain
- Chairperson Johnson - aye
- Angie Haller - aye
- John Nichols - aye
- Jeffrey Cash - aye

- **Minutes of the April 4, 2012 meeting:** These minutes were approved at a previous meeting; however, there was no quorum present so they must be reconsidered. It was moved by Member Gulbransen and seconded by Member Whitaker to approve the minutes. Motion passed per the vote below:

- Vertis Whitaker - aye
- Krista Gulbransen - abstain
- Greg Novak - aye
- Alex Cole-Miller - abstain
- Frank Castro - abstain
- Chairperson Johnson aye
- Angie Haller - aye
- John Nichols - aye
- Jeffrey Cash - aye

- **NPCPC Recertification Form:** At the April 4, 2012 meeting, it was voted to accept the recertification form as submitted by the NPCPC Resources Committee. Because there was no quorum, this item needs to be reconsidered. It was moved by Member Nichols and seconded by Member Novak to approve the new recertification form as submitted by the NPCPC Resources Committee. Motion passed, per the vote below:

- Vertis Whitaker - aye
- Krista Gulbransen - abstain
- Greg Novak - aye
- Alex Cole-Miller - abstain
- Frank Castro - abstain
- Chairperson Johnson - aye
- Angie Haller - aye
- John Nichols - aye
- Jeffrey Cash - abstain

- **Minutes of the May 2, 2012 Meeting:** It was moved by Member Novak and seconded by Member Nichols to approve the minutes. There was one speaker on this item: Jack McElroy spoke about the problem, approximately 6 years ago, at the corner of MacArthur and 35th Avenue regarding youth who would congregate after school at the bus stop. Fights, loitering and other unruly behavior would occur. This problem was solved when officers from the Sherriff's Department, OPD, OUSD, and AC Transit worked in collaboration to follow the busses from the school to the bus stop, as well as park at the buss stop on a

daily basis. It took about 2 months for the behavior to stop. Motion passed per the vote below:

- Vertis Whitaker - aye
- Krista Gulbransen - aye
- Greg Novak - aye
- Alex Cole-Miller - abstain
- Frank Castro - abstain
- Chairperson Johnson -aye
- Angie Haller - aye
- John Nichols – aye
- Jeffrey Cash - abstain

Potential Merging of the Departments of Human Services (DHS), Neighborhood Services (NSD) and Parks and Recreations (OPR) into a new Community Services Agency.

Deputy City Administrator, Arturo Sanchez made a presentation to the CPAB regarding the history and current status of the merger of DHS, NSD, and OPR. He has been assisting Assistant City Administrator Fred Blackwell on the proposed merger of the three agencies. The proposal is based on the similarity each department has in serving Oakland residents, and said that synergies and efficiencies may be found in a closer working relationship and reporting structure. This merger was included in the FY 2012-13 budget modification, and net reduction in staff is anticipated nor planned. One million dollars has already been saved and it is anticipated that when synergies are achieved additional savings will result.

Management Partners, a consulting firm, has been hired to develop a roadmap the City can follow to achieve the merger over the next two years. To date, staff interviews, focus groups, survey, and an all-hands meeting have been held to begin to gather information. Community engagement is planned including a meeting of all relevant City board and commissions such as the CPAB. At this weeknight, evening meeting Management Partners will present the process, provide the current status, answer questions and hear feedback. Mr. Sanchez said that NCPC chairs would be welcomed at this meeting, as well. He will email Marcus about the upcoming to be sure all relevant parties are invited. Chairperson Johnson commented that CPAB members should take some responsibility for outreaching to NCPCs and other community policing constituencies in this matter. Perhaps a survey would make sense.

Commenting on the structure, Mr. Sanchez said that NSD will remain a separate unit from OPR and DHS and it is anticipated NSD will report directly to the new director of the Community Services Agency. Mr. Sanchez said the goal is to keep the work of the NSCs whole while providing greater supervision. However, as part of Management Partner's investigation, they could make the recommendation that NSD not be included in the merger.

Comments and questions from CPAB members indicated the following concerns

- The negative impact the merger will have on the future of community policing as described in Resolution 79235 – “community policing as we know it will be gone”.
- The negative impact the merger will have on the relationship of NSCs with OPD.
- How does the merger add value when the NSCs already have cross functional relationship with a number of City departments and outside agencies and are the least siloed organization in the City.
- Where are the financial and other efficiencies in such a merger - as NSD staff currently drives OPD cars, uses OPD radios and other OPS equipment and services.
- The new director, in order to manage the new agency, will theoretically have to have expertise in three areas: recreation, human services, and community policing. How is this realistic and possible. The fear is it will lead to a dilution and devaluing of community policing.
- The theory and assumptions behind the merger may not align with the practice – and the City and Management Partners needs to demonstrate to the community how such a merger adds value.
- Given the timeline of the merger (Management Partners’ report is due the end of July), can all the relevant community engagement be accomplished, realistically.
- The process Management Partners will follow to get the input and do the community engagement is not clear or transparent.

Speakers on this item:

Nancy Sidebotham. The following summarizes her remarks:

- The NSC should go back to OPD.
- She questioned why Management Partners is being paid to do this.
- The NSCs already work cross functionally including the Measure Y Street Outreach Teams.

Colleen Brown. The following summarizes her remarks:

- She is terrified by this as the course of community policing will be determined by the flavor of the new director they hire. So if they are not community policing oriented, community policing will be devalued or destroyed.
- The NSCs should go back to OPD as they were most effective when they were there.
- The supervision in OPD would be better in OPD. In the merger you are adding another layer of supervision.

Jack McElroy. The following summarizes his remarks:

- The NCPs should be under the guidance of OPD.
- If you comingle these departments you will get a bad situation

Allene Warren. The following summarizes her remarks.

- The NCP members need to be surveyed about their opinion on the merger.
- She didn't find the NSCs as effective when they were under OPD as they didn't know what their duties were supposed to be.
- With approximately 600 sworn personnel, OPD can't supervise NSD effectively
- Maybe merging them isn't the answer either but don't think they should go back to OPD

Chairperson's Report

- There are vacancies on the CPAB and we will endeavor to get them filled so the CPAB will be at full strength.
- There will be fewer items on the agenda, but, hopefully, more meaningful discussions.
- It is important to understand the scope of our work, and stick to that, rather than on petty, personal attacks.
- The Committee work is important.
 - NCP Resources Committee:
 - Member Nichols will continue to be the chairperson. The following members volunteered to be on this committee
 - Member Whitaker,
 - Member Cole-Miller
 - Member Novak
 - Chairperson Johnson
 - Programs and Services Committee:
 - Member Castor will serve as the chairperson as Member White declined to be the chairperson this year. The following members volunteered to be on this committee
 - Member Haller
 - Chairperson Johnson
 - Member Cash
- Chairperson Johnson said that we are in the process of getting the report on the status of community policing agenda at the Rules Committee so it can be scheduled for the Public Safety Committee, hopefully for their July 24 meeting.
- Member Gulbransen said she will forward *Tool and Tactics* to the chairperson so he can forward it to the appropriate Committee for revision.

Agenda Building for the July 2012 Meeting

The following items were suggested:

- Merger
- What OPD does
- What NSCs do
- What the Neighborhood Watch program consists of.
- The status of National Night Out.
- The Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee
- Cancel the CPAB meeting for July 4 and make it for July 5
- Nixel
- Perhaps a special meeting on the merger to get community involved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.