

Community Policing Advisory Board
Minutes of Special Meeting

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, First Floor, Oakland City Hall, Oakland, California 94612

March 6, 2013 6:00 pm

Council Chambers, Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

AGENDA

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting order and opened the meeting by acknowledging Mayor Quan, City Administrator Deanna Santana, Police Chief Jordan, Assistant Chief Toribio, and Council President Pat Kernighan and then asked each member and staff of the CPAB to introduce themselves by the district or entity they represent. Council Member McElhaney arrived later.

Committee Roll Call:

Present-Jeffrey Cash (M), Frank Castro (NW), John Garvey (Dist. 2), Krista Gulbransen (Dist. 4), Angela Haller (NW), Barbara Hunter (Dist. 3), Chairperson Marcus Johnson (AL) Alex Miller-Cole (M), Vice Chair John Nichols (Dist. 6), Renia Webb (OHA), Vertis Whitaker (Dist. 1), and Chief James Williams (OUSD)*

Absent- Greg Novak (Dist. 7),

Vacancies- District 5, Mayoral

Note: * OUSD appointment awaiting City Council confirmation/resolution

Appointee Notes: Dist. = District; M = Mayoral; NW = Neighborhood Watch; OHA = Oakland Housing Authority; OUSD = Oakland Unified School District

Special Guest Measure Y Oversight Committee Roll Call:

Jose Dorado (M), Jahaziel Bonilla (Mayor), Qa'ld Aqeel (AL), Ryan Hunter (Dist 4), Joanne Brown (Dist 1), Peter Barnett (Dist 5), Nyeisha DeWitt (M), and Patrick Caceres, Staff to the Committee. Melanie Shelby (Dist 6) arrive later

Mayor Jean Quan introduced Bob Wasserman from Strategic Policy Partnership as a major step toward building the kind of community policing model in Oakland. This has been the vision of the CPAB and that this meeting was a first in a series of meetings with the community, the rest of which will have small group discussions to hear input from all over Oakland.

Agenda Item 1: Beat 33/34X Re-certification

Public Speakers:

Jacque Castain stated her NCPC had been trying to be recertified since losing their certification in 2009. They have been meeting regularly and are ready to be certified.

Beverly Williams, the vice-chair of the NCPC thanked the Board for their assistance in revising their by-laws, and asked to be recertified.

Chair Johnson reminded the body that this was an item that had been waiting and that he was very happy to see the group re-certified.

Motion to certify Beat 33/34 NCPC, by Member Gulbranson, seconded by Member Whitaker;
Vote, Ayes: Cash, Castro, Gulbransen, Haller, Hunter, Johnson, Miller-Cole, Nichols, Webb, Whitaker **Noes:** none; **Abstentions:** Garvey, Williams; **Motion passed: 10-0-2**

Agenda Item 2 Bob Wasserman, Strategic Policy Partnership. Presentation, Attachment 1.

Public Speakers:

Victor Douglas: He wanted a copy of the presentation (which is online) and he highly recommended the David Kennedy Book "Don't Shoot" as a very good strategy to reduce crime in cities nationally. He also asked about the efforts to coordinate law enforcement with other agencies such as the Feds, State, and County. Mr. Wasserman explained that the coordination among agencies around the Cease Fire effort was a really good example of coordination in action and is happening now in Oakland.

Marion Mills: She supports greater community involvement at the grassroots level but wants to know about the plans for increasing the number of Police Officers, and decreasing Police violence toward the community. Mr. Wasserman explained that increasing the number of officers is important but doesn't stop us from doing something different with what we have right now. He noted the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA) addresses the concern of police violence; not the plan he is working on.

Peg Lum: Thanked Mr. Wasserman and the City for its efforts. She also noted the need for greater community involvement in Neighborhood Watch. She also noted that the media portrays Oakland poorly, choosing to cover negative stories and not positive ones.

Jim Dexter: He acknowledged a quorum of the Board and the Measure Y Oversight Committee. He noted that that these two boards are the official volunteer bodies who give input to these issues and the City ignores their input on a regular basis. He asked that Mr. Wasserman review the minutes of these boards and see that they have had this problem for a long time. He hopes that this will now change. Secondly, he wants the police to stay on their beats and feels the city is very far away from that reality. He cited the example of his PSO not attending his NCPC Meetings because he is constantly asked to be elsewhere. He went on to state that

the Measure Y Oversight Committee has asked for an accounting of PSO activity for 9 years (including how much time they spend on their beat) and have never received this data.

Miguel Vargas: He too feels the CPAB and other boards that focus on Police are ignored and this breeds a lack of trust for many groups in the city. He cited the example of the Occupy Oakland report not being released in a timely manner. He noted that the police have two Public Information Officers yet the community doesn't feel they get a lot of good communication from OPD.

Jerry Budin: He stated that he spends a lot of taxpayer money in the City of Oakland but is upset and frustrated that his wife and daughter were assaulted and robbed outside his building as was a neighbor and the police didn't show up. He is fearful of walking the streets in Oakland and he feels the answer is more police. He wants the city to lay off other workers and use the money to hire more police. Otherwise he will move out of Oakland. He also wants to see more foot patrol.

Gan L Ou: He has lived in Oakland for over ten years and his house has been broken into twice and the crime was never solved; he works hard, pays taxes, and deserves better. He lives in constant fear everytime he leaves his house. He knows the perpetrators live nearby in his neighborhood but the police never take him seriously and he is curious what percentage of burglaries is solved in the City.

Zehui Guan: He moved to Oakland recently and his family has been robbed twice at gunpoint and his home was invaded as well. The last time he was assaulted and needed stitches (that he still has). He moved, thinking this would help but it has not, his family lives in fear. He believes the Asian Community is being targeted and there is more violence to come. How can the police protect citizens like him.

Carl Chan: He thanked the two boards for all of their effort. He said that crime can happen everywhere and can be committed by anyone. He also thinks the community needs to do more, his Chinatown NCPC has as many as 200 people come out to their meetings and he would like to see the consulting team come to his NCPC Meeting.

Scott Olsen: When he was hospitalized the Mayor promised him that police brutality would be addressed and taken seriously but he still does not know the name of the officer who shot him in the face with a tear gas canister. He feels there is no way to build trust between the community and OPD when officers are not held accountable.

Reverend Ken Chambers: He commended everyone's efforts at addressing violence in the community. He noted that more people need to get involved and this is a problem nationally, not just in Oakland.

Adam Katz: He explained why he will not partner with the police; he was arrested during an Occupy Oakland Rally for no reason, added to a list of "Dangerous People" by OPD for over six months and ultimately exonerated. The department sent a form letter stating that he was wrongfully arrested and that it apologized for any inconvenience it may have caused. He feels

strongly that victims of Police misuse of authority should be better handled; that they deserve to know what consequences the officer faces, and what the city is doing to prevent this sort of thing from happening again. (Mr. Wasserman explained that police transparency, while important, is a very complex issue because there are state laws and portions of officer's union contract that prevent full transparency in such situations.)

Measure Y Oversight Committee members Comments | Questions:

Member J. Brown asked about the transfer/deployment of PSOs to the Crime Reduction Teams (not assigned by beat), a problem the Measure Y Committee has constantly asked. Mr. Wasserman explained that is a key component the Bratten Team of his group would be studying and making a recommendation.

Member DeWitt asked about the funding for whatever plans his team comes up with. Is there a recommendation around funding of the strategies? He explained that his team is studying the funding issue and will make a recommendation on this as well.

Member Shelby asked about timeline and implementation: The plan will be complete in five months and ready for implementation. She went on to note that the new Compliance Director, William Frasier, will be coming to town and making recommendations in one month, how will this plan fit with the Wasserman plan. Mr. Wasserman stated that he and Mr. Frasier talk often and he feels that Mr. Frasier's plans do not interfere with his plans to change the department but that the two plans can supplement each other. Ms. Shelby went on to note the significance of Cease Fire and the City's renewed efforts around this initiative. She also wants to see that youth and the labor community get the chance to weigh in on this plan. Last, she is concerned about the reauthorization of Measure Y considering the crime problem in Oakland. Mr. Wasserman noted that there will be a youth forum on this plan.

Member Hunter spoke to the reauthorization of Measure Y as well. Measure Y sunsets in 2016 and the work of the committee is to determine what worked and what didn't work with the original law. His question to Mr. Wasserman is what he thinks was effective about Measure Y. He also encouraged the public to attend the Oversight committee meetings as well.

Member Barnett spoke to the bad publicity the City gets and how it's a huge barrier to working with the community. Second, he spoke of the many changing committees in the City that are designed to help residents engage with the city including Neighborhood Watch, NCPCs, CORE Programs, etc. Mr. Wasserman noted that OPD needs to be more transparent, and that an inventory of all the neighborhood organizations needs to be conducted to see that there is less overlap and better coordination in these efforts.

Member Bonilla thanked Mr. Wasserman for his presentation and focused his comments on the community work. His hope is that a true partnership is created between OPD, the City, and the many different communities. Mr. Wassermann agreed and noted that the new captains in charge of each district need to assemble an advisory team from their district. Mr. Bonilla also

stressed the need for economic development in these very same communities as a component to the resolution of crime in these areas.

Measure Y Chair Dorado signaled he really supports the youth component of this work. Also, he noted that Neighborhood Watch and NCPCs have existed for over fifteen years so the organization for community involvement exists but needs to be provided the resources to work effectively and that has not happened in Oakland. Last, he encouraged more community members to get involved and be heard!

CPAB Members Comments | Questions

Member Garvey: His first concern is with the City's Neighborhood Services Coordinators, he feels their role is vital and they are underfunded and understaffed. He asked what the Consultant found thus far in his study of the department and if would come back to the CPAB to report out on that. He is concerned that our model of community policing is not working. He noted that some community members don't want to come to forums, but would rather smaller group formats. Last he asked if the Cease Fire Walks would expand beyond clergy. Mr. Wasserman wants to see everyone doing these walks in their own neighborhoods.

Member Whitaker enjoyed his presentation and mostly wants to see officers waling in the neighborhoods and getting to know people.

Member Hunter noted that she wants to see more emphasis on the community, including a way to access people who really do not like the police and may be afraid to come from these forums. She wants to also see more as to how OPD will address the NSA and how it will work with Mr. Wasserman's plan. He stated that constitutional policing is essential for the department but at the same time, the work he is overseeing is important—the two are not mutually exclusive. Last, Ms. Hunter is concerned that we just simply need more officers in the community.

Member Gulbransen noted that more community involvement is essential and has been a problem. The people in the room are really involved but there is a disconnect between what they are recommending and what ultimately comes down from the top. For example, there was an NCPC Meeting recently with over 100 people in attendance in their neighborhood. Also, she wants to see the City use the CPAB to help spread the word and get more people to the table. She had one question; how will you select the members of the committee that will shape the plan? Mr. Wasserman explained that the committee was chosen by OPD and is very diverse, including members of both of the bodies meeting tonight.

Member Nichols asked if the city's that have used Cease Fire, have any not worked and if so, why. Also he wants to see whether the OPD efforts are successful. He attended a Cease Fire Night Walk and found it very interesting. Mr. Wasserman explained that the current Cease Fire effort will have a regular reporting system but is in its first quarter so we have not seen that report yet but he believes it will have a strong impact.

Member Angie Haller stated that Neighborhood Watch is a key strategy and needs to be better utilized. She also noted that the PSOs mostly do a great job but there is a disconnect in that many in the public are unfamiliar with their work.

Member Frank Castro recommends that the communities asks a lot of questions and give a lot of input. He feels that for the first time the City really is asking the community about their input and this is a really important opportunity. He encouraged community members to participate in the town hall meetings and thanked those who were attendance at this meeting. He did ask Mr. Wasserman about the desire to keep officers in their beats. He noted that every year OPD has a "Draw" in which officers are allowed to change their assignment and this causes a huge disruption in the relationship between the police and community. He asked that the consultant address this problem because it is a real, historic problem that has never been addressed by OPD.

Mr. Wasserman acknowledged this problem and went further to note that when there is a change in personnel, the officer who is leaving needs to take the time to introduce the new officer to the community and its concerns.

Member Renia Webb noted that our problems include the fact that OPD is not solving crimes and therefore criminals think they won't get caught. She wants to see better deployment in this regard. Her second concern is whether the team is looking at other cities nearby to learn lessons about what strategies they used to get to a much lower crime rate. Mr. Wasserman is in touch with San Francisco but feels the challenges are much different. His plan will be unique to Oakland.

(Member*) Chief James Williams noted that he is a new committee member but used to be a community policing officer and learned then that building relationships with the community is essential to success.

Member Jeffrey Cash noted that the NSA is really about changing the culture of OPD. He feels that the CPAB and other boards have been marginalized and ignored by the City and OPD. Until these advisory bodies and the NSA are fully acknowledged, the City will not move forward. He also feels that the City is spending a lot of money to hire consultants to tell the City how to do its job and has little confidence that it will work differently this time versus past efforts at change.

Member Alex Miller-Cole reviewed resolution 79235 and stated that the CPAB does not have the resources to effectively do its job as stated in the resolution and the City constantly ignores the CPAB. He wants to see the budget for the CPAB restored and a lot of technical support provided that currently does not exist.

Chair Johnson closed out the commentary by thanking everyone involved and invited Chief Jordan to make a comment to the body. Chief Jordan stated his support for this community driven process and acknowledged that in his 25 years with OPD, this is the most comprehensive effort he has ever seen. He further stated that the community has a huge

stake in this effort and he will do everything in his power to see that the community's input is taken seriously.

Chair Johnson announced the next CPAB meeting and invited the public to attend, he also announced all of the scheduled Town Hall Meeting dates and locations and encouraged everyone to attend those as well.

Agenda Item, Open Forum

Jim Dexter: He stated that he was glad to see a combined meeting of the CPAB and Measure Y Oversight Committee. He is sad however, that there was no interchange between the two boards and that the CPAB did not discuss any other regular agenda items.

Meeting Adjourned