



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 18, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Council Member Meagan Harmon
Council Member Alejandra Gutierrez

SUBJECT: Civilian Police Review Systems: Presentation And Approval Of The Framework For Appointing The Community Oversight Formation Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve a framework for appointing a diverse and inclusive Community Oversight Formation Commission to make recommendations to the City Council on the creation of a Civilian Police Review System.

DISCUSSION:

On July 21, 2020, the City Council heard a presentation on different civilian police review systems. We voted unanimously to direct an ad hoc committee consisting of Council Members Meagan Harmon and Alejandra Gutierrez to work with the City Administrator and City Attorney to develop a framework for creating a diverse and inclusive board or commission to provide recommendations about formation of a civilian police review system.

Attachment 1 presents the framework we developed. The summary table of our proposal is:

Membership	13
Chairperson	Selected by Commission
Qualifications	Either personal or professional experience, or both, that will garner the confidence and trust of the Santa Barbara community, including: relevant lived experience, demonstrated community standing, and relevant academic research or professional experience
Term	Approximately 1 year

Meeting Schedule	Monthly, plus as needed
Flexible Meeting Times	Staff support will be available outside of normal work hours, including weekends and evenings
Time Commitment	4 to 20 hours/month
Financial Disclosure?	No
Training Requirements	Yes, Successful applicants will receive Ethics training required by AB 1234 and extensive training in police practices and community policing needs and options
Professional and Logistical Assistance	The Council anticipates the Commission retaining a professional facilitator after a thorough selection process
Staff Liaisons	Asst. City Attorney, others as requested
Appointment Process	City Council selects 13 members from applicant pool Council will give special weight to nominations from neighborhood organizations and community foundations

A few of the highlights on the framework include our recommendations that:

- The Council seek people whose life experience, education, professional skills, and community standing will garner the confidence and trust of the community.
- Community Oversight Formation Commission (COFC) members should have a demonstrated interest in community affairs, social justice, criminal justice, and equal rights issues.
- The Council wants the membership of the COFC to be broad-based and inclusive in all dimensions.
- U.S. citizenship is not required.
- Applications are due by September 30, 2020.
- The Council will give additional weight to applications from persons who are supported or nominated by a community or neighborhood organization, foundation, or other interest group. The Council believes that widespread community involvement in this process is essential. Civic engagement through the inclusion of a diverse range of interest groups will increase community involvement.
- The City will protect applicants' and Commission members' personal information to the full extent allowed by law. This Commission will conduct extensive and highly visible public outreach, and will make what may be controversial recommendations. It is not legally possible to conceal the identity of participants.

We are also proposing that each applicant be given the opportunity to respond to two specific questions:

1. Why do you want to be on the COFC?
2. What personal or professional experiences do you have that pertain to discussions of policing in our community and/or to police oversight more broadly?

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

We estimate this process will take at least one year. As state above, we anticipate the Commission retaining a professional facilitator after a thorough selection process. This will involve substantial but as-yet undetermined professional fees. We also expect various expenses for meeting logistics and administrative support.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Improved relations between public safety and the community will facilitate the provision of new and better services to the community. Cross-cultural communications between public safety and the many communities of Santa Barbara will improve community resiliency by assuring the needs of all Santa Barbarans are consider during disaster planning and other public safety service contexts.

ATTACHMENT: Community Oversight Formation Commission Framework

PREPARED BY: Meagan Harmon and Alejandra Gutierrez, Council Members

SUBMITTED BY: Ariel Calonne, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office