



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Community Police Review Commission Memorandum

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**TO: COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION      DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE      WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS FOR COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW  
COMMISSION SURVEY REGARDING COMMISSIONERS PERSPECTIVE ON  
LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT MISSION AND ROLE**

## **ISSUES:**

Consider and provide input on the summary of survey results from the Community Police Review Commission survey provided to current and past Commissioners in an effort to gain an understanding of the Commissioners perspective on Commission activities and the current level of support from the City for carrying out the Commissions mission and role; consider if community input on this topic in a workshop setting is desired; and forward an overview of the Community Police Review Commission with insights or requests for support that may arise from this discussion to the City Council.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Community Police Review Commission:

1. Consider and provide input on the summary of survey results from the Community Police Review Commission survey provided to current and past Commissioners in an effort to gain an understanding of the Commissioners perspective on Commission activities and the current level of support from the City for carrying out the Commissions mission and role;
2. Consider if community input on this topic in a workshop setting is desired; and
3. Forward an overview of the Community Police Review Commission with insights or requests for support that may arise from this discussion to the City Council in response to the City Councils request.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City Council requested that the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) and Human Relations Commission (HRC) be surveyed to better understand the Commissioner's perspective on their respective Commission's activities and current level of support from the City for carrying out its mission and role.

A survey for each Commission was developed and distributed to current and past Commissioner's for input. The survey requested that Commissioner's provide a ranking on a scale from 1 to 5 reflecting the extent to which they believed their respective Commission was able to carry out their powers, duties and functions as described in the Riverside City Charter and Riverside Municipal Code. Individual survey results are confidential, but a summary of the results will be discussed with each Commission. Any feedback received will be presented to the City Council for consideration and input by the respective Commission Chair.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Community Police Review Commission was asked for a ranking of 1 through 5 and/or was asked to provide input on 14 survey questions. Staff received six (6) response from current Commissioners and six (6) responses from previous Commissioners. The questions and results are summarized in the table below:

<b>Question</b>	<b>Average Rank</b>	<b>Rank Range</b>	<b>Mostly Ranked</b>
1. The Community Police Review Commission advised the Mayor and City Council on all police and community relations issues.	3.64	2-5	4
2. The Community Police Review Commission conducted public outreach to educate the community on the purpose of the commission.	4.55	3-5	5
3. The Community Police Review Commission received, reviewed and investigated citizen complaints against officers of the Riverside Police Department filed in writing within six months of the date of the alleged misconduct.	4.27	3-5	5
4. The Community Police Review Commission reviewed and investigated the deaths of any individuals arising out of or in connection with actions of a police officer, regardless of whether a complaint regarding such deaths had been filed.	4.64	3-5	5
5. The Community Police Review Commission had the ability to conduct hearings on filed complaints or commission-initiated investigations when such hearings, in the discretion of the commission, facilitated the fact-finding process.	4.09	1-5	5
6. The Community Police Review Commission had the ability to exercise the power of subpoena to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers pertinent to the investigation and to administer oaths to such witnesses and take testimony to the extent permissible by law.	4.09	2-5	5
7. The Community Police Review Commission made findings concerning allegations contained in the filed complaints to the City Manager and Police Chief.	4.64	3-5	5
8. The Community Police Review Commission reviewed and advised the Riverside Police Department in matters pertaining to police policies and practices.	4.27	3-5	5
9. The Community Police Review Commission promoted effective, efficient, trustworthy and just law enforcement in	4.27	3-5	5

the City of Riverside and brought to the attention of the City its findings and recommendations regarding law enforcement policies and practices.			
10. The Community Police Review Commission ensured good relations between those who enforce the laws and the diverse populace whom they served.	4.09	3-5	4 & 5
11. Did the Community Police Review Commission have access to the resources needed to carry out its powers, duties and functions as described in the City of Riverside Charter Section 810 and the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.76 during your time serving on the Commission?	N/A	N/A	Yes
12. Are there any additional powers, duties or functions that should have been or should be added to the mission of the Community Police Review Commission?	N/A	N/A	No
13. Do you have any suggestions on how the Community Police Review Commission can help further equity and inclusion in the City of Riverside?	N/A	N/A	Yes
14. Please provide any other suggestions or comments in the space provided below.	N/A	N/A	No

In general, Community Police Review Commissioners feel that they are granted the ability to carry out their powers, duties and functions as described in the Riverside City Charter and Riverside Municipal Code. Most of the questions were ranked in the four to five range with only three questions receiving at least one ranking of below a three. Likewise, most Commissioners felt that they had access to the resources needed to carry out the Commissions powers, duties, and functions and did not feel that the Commission required additional powers, duties or functions added to the mission of the Commission.

Some of the comments received from the surveys are summarized below:

- CPRC is able to provide input to the Mayor and City Council but is not often asked for input
- Communications between CPRC and City Council/Mayor's Office seems limited
- Communication with Police Department and City Manager's Office is good
- CPRC has done an amazing job with public outreach
- CPRC should work on more outreach during COVID
- More can be done by CPRC to connect with community stakeholders most impacted by negative interactions with RPD
- CPRC outreach seems limited in scope and is only presented upon request
- Most complaints are reviewed in a timely manner
- Most complaints go through RPD, question if there is a mechanism for a complaint to be delivered directly to the CPRC
- CPRC reviews OIDs and determines if what occurred is within or not within policy
- CPRC has access to an independent investigator to conduct follow-up investigations
- When needed, resources have been available for a subject matter expert to facilitate decision making and findings.
- CPRC has the ability to conduct hearings
- CPRC has the power to subpoena but has not had instance to use it
- CPRC has the authority to advise RPD on policies and practices but advice is non-binding

- When further understanding is needed by CPRC, RPD always provides information/explanation
- CPRC has a good relationship with RPD
- RPD has done a good job of being visible, present, and accessible
- Budget can be restricting

Suggestions received from the surveys for additional resources and functions are summarized below:

- Request that CPRC review and investigate OID cases closer to the date they occur
- Request that CPRC conduct an additional review of OID cases in closed session
- Commissioners should be able to go out to the crime scene to obtain a better perspective
- Commissioners are in need of additional training and direction
- Continue to appoint diverse members of the Commission
- CPRC needs a more proactive approach to public forums and hearings
- Effective transparent communication with the community and the police department before something occurs, be proactive and not reactive
- Request a handbook outlining the duties, powers and expectations and refresher training for Commissioners
- Commissioners should be afforded a stipend
- Request for improved technology

If desired by the Commission, a community workshop, via virtual format, can be coordinated to discuss the Commissions powers, duties, and functions and the ability of the Commission to carry out their mission and role.

Approved by: Megan Stoye, Senior Management Analyst/CPRC Manager