

Community Police Review Commission Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION DATE: APRIL 28, 2021

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER RONALDO FIERRO WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON CITY COUNCIL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EMPOWER AND REFINE THE FUNCTION, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION

ISSUE:

Receive and file a presentation on Councilmember Fierro and Councilmember Hemenway's Ad-Hoc Community Police Reform Task Force's recommendations to empower the Community Police Review Commission through amendments to the Riverside Municipal Code.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Community Police Review Commission:

1. Receive and file a presentation regarding the background, context and proposed recommendations of a Council Ad-Hoc Task Force recommending municipal code amendments to clarify and empower the Commission to advise the City Council on police reform matters; and
2. Provide input and feedback on the proposed recommendations related to the Community Police Review Commission.

BACKGROUND:

In response to national unrest and calls from local community leaders for police reform in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Councilmember Ronaldo Fierro and Councilmember Steve Hemenway formed an ad-hoc community task force to advise the Council on community priorities related to community policing, examine current Riverside Police Department policies and practices, research best practices and provide recommendations on methods to achieve enhanced community outcomes in Riverside.

The Task Force was made up of a broad cross-section of community members from across Riverside, including Church leaders, community leaders and residents. The Task Force met for nearly five months, and heard presentations from Former Mayor Ronald Loveridge, Police Chief Larry Gonzalez and RPD Command Staff, academics, and other pertinent figures familiar with police reform.

After hearing from these experts, the Task Force set out to discuss and formulate informed, vetted, and actionable policy recommendations to enhance community policing in Riverside and continue the open and honest relationship between the RPD and the community at large.

Out of the several recommendations formulated by the Task Force, the community group saw the empowerment of the Community Police Review Commission in fulfilling its Charter duty as a policymaking body as the most pertinent and relevant recommendation.

The City Council's passage of the 2025 Strategic Plan, including strategic priorities of high-performing government, community-well-being and the cross-cutting threads of equity and community trust support these recommendations. The City Council's resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis also supports this item.

On November 3, 2020, Councilmember Fierro and Councilmember Hemenway had scheduled to present the Task Force recommendations to the full city council and refer discussion to the Inclusiveness, Community Engagement, and Governmental Processes for further vetting. The item was pulled due to concerns with alignment with the 2020 National Election. It is the intention of the City Councilmembers to bring this item forward to a City Council Committee sometime in the Spring of 2021 for further vetting and eventual Council discussion.

DISCUSSION:

Out of the Task Force's five-month long discussion regarding Riverside community policing came a strong desire to focus on empowering and refining the structure of the Community Police Review Commission with the goal of allowing the body to function effectively as a community oversight and proactive policymaking body that has a more direct relationship with the City Council in regards to community/police issues.

Section 810 of the Riverside City Charter empowers the Community Police Review Commission to advise the mayor and city council on all police/community relations issues and to review and advise the Riverside Police Department in matters pertaining to police policies and practices.

Chapter 2.76 of the Riverside Municipal Code further codifies the purpose, membership, powers duties and functions of the CPRC. The Task Force's recommendations would specifically result in amendments to the Municipal Code and would not require a City Charter change.

The Task Force recommendations are as follows:

- 1. Revise the purpose, scope, and duties of the Commission to reflect its role more accurately as a policymaking body and oversight commission in the pursuit of accountability and trust**

Revised Purpose Statement: (Section 2.76.020)

The renewed purpose of the CPRC is the betterment of the City of Riverside by establishing a fully transparent, invested, and trustworthy relationship between the Riverside Police Department and the diverse and dignified community it is sworn to serve. To this end the CPRC is charged with independent oversight, purposeful research, good faith engagement, community involvement, and policy development as we continue to build the City of Riverside and ensure

the freedom, dignity and safety of citizens and civil servants alike.

Additional powers, duties and functions: (Section 2.76.50)

- *To act as an independent auditor and archivist of the Riverside Police Department and to advise the Mayor and City Council on policy and procedure recommendations related to police/community issues and to develop and oversee regular surveys, reports and studies into Riverside policing policies and 21st century community policing models.*
- *To conduct public outreach to educate the community on the purpose of the Commission and actively engage community members and community groups in the policymaking and oversight process through methods such as the creation of sub-committees consisting of CPRC members and community members.*
- *To independently receive & review body cam video footage immediately, at the same time as Internal Affairs, without delay or interference when pertinent to an investigation into police misconduct or officer-involved shootings.*
- *To independently prepare and submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council on the state of police/community interactions and innovative and pertinent policy recommendations to end violent police interactions, inspire confidence and partnerships in community policing and inform the priority-based budgeting process.*

- 2. Increase membership from nine to eighteen members to be recruited to reflect our city's diversity and with priority given to members with experience in public health and safety, social work, and individuals from LGTBQ, black, brown, youth and rural communities.**

Proposed Revision: (Section 2.760.40)

The Community Police Review Commission shall consist of up to eighteen members appointed by the Mayor and City Council. There shall be two members from each Ward and four at large members. Members shall be removed from the Commission by five affirmative votes of the Mayor and City Council for incompetence, malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance or neglect of duty. Members will be recruited to reflect our city's diversity and with priority given to members with experience in public health and safety, social work, and individuals from LGTBQ, black, brown, youth and rural communities. To maintain full independence, the CPRC will not include any active members of law enforcement, and no more than two former law enforcement professional members shall retain membership on the board at any point in time.

- 3. Establish the commission's independence by requiring at least three full-time positions appointed by the Commission and confirmed by the Council.**

Proposed Revision: (Section 2.76.30)

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII, Appointive Boards and Commissions, of the Charter of the City of Riverside, as the same now exists or is hereafter amended, there is hereby created a Community Police Review Commission. The Community Police Review Commission shall maintain at least three full-time staff positions appointed by the Commission and confirmed by the City Council.

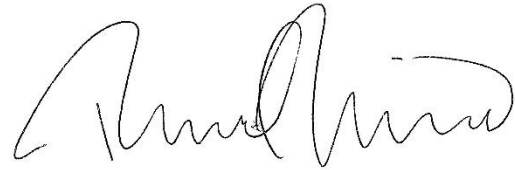
- 4. Strengthen community engagement and outreach by encouraging the Commission to partner with academic institutions and community groups and including the community in the policymaking process. (no proposed revision to RMC)**

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations in this report. If new programs or policies are recommended and implemented, the fiscal impact, if any, will be defined during City Council review and approval of this item.

Prepared by: Caleb Ragan, Office of Councilmember Ronaldo Fierro

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronaldo Fierro', written over a horizontal line.

RONALDO FIERRO
Councilmember, Ward 3

Attachments:

1. Task Force Recommended Code Amendments
2. Presentation