



Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach
July 11, 2022

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 the July 11, 2022 Community Advisory Council meeting was held virtually.

PRESENT

Council Members: Lorez Bailey, Lorena Barrera, Dora Estrada, Marcy Flores, Max Pearl, Nancy Pemberton, Tom Rose, Nathan Solomon, Evan Zelig

IOLERO Staff: Garrick Byers, Interim Director; Melanie Griffin, Programs Manager;

SCSO: Lt. Brandon Cutting

Members of the Public: 30 members of the public attended via ZOOM.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Facilitated by CAC Chair Evan Zelig and Vice Chair Lorena Barrera

- Chair Zelig announced that Councilmember Nzinga Woods has submitted her resignation. He thanked her for her service to the CAC and encouraged interested members of the public from District 3, Supervisor Coursey's district, to contact Melanie Griffin at IOLERO or the Board of Supervisors staff for information on how to apply for appointment to the CAC.
- Agenda Review: No changes were suggested to the agenda.
- Public Comment: No members of the public addressed the council.
- Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2022 meeting
Motion to approve: Councilmember Pemberton
2nd: Councilmember Rose
Vote:
Ayes: Barrera, Estrada, Flores, Pearl, Pemberton, Rose, Solomon, Zelig.
Abstain: Bailey.

2. Correspondence Items

- Chair Zelig reported that the CAC members have received several emails from the public about the Letters of Agreement between Sonoma County and the Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) and Sonoma County Law Enforcement Association (SCLEA). These emails were all received just prior to tonight's meeting and not included in the agenda packet, but can be made available at IOLERO upon request.

They will also be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors. Councilmember Rose said that he and another councilmember will be meeting with Supervisor Rabbitt regarding this matter.

- Public Comment: No members of the public addressed the Council.

3. Interim Director's Report

- Interim Director Byers reported that the Community Engagement Analyst is still in background and that a new analyst position was approved for IOLERO by the Board of Supervisors during the recent budget hearings to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget. This new position will be focused in part on establishing office policies and procedures for the office. Mr. Byers also expressed that the hiring process for IOLERO staff is lengthy and frustrating and he hopes to address this with the permanent director when he or she comes onboard. Mr. Byers also said that he does not have updates on the hiring of the new director except to say that the timeline for late August to early September seems to still be accurate. In answer to a question from Councilmember Pemberton, IOLERO's budget is approximately \$1,900,000.00.
- Public Comment: No members of the public addressed the Council.

4. Discussion of Measure P Decision

- Interim Director Byers offered a PowerPoint presentation of his analysis of the County's agreements with the DSA and the SCLEA. He answered questions as to how the meet and confer process started between the two unions and the County. There was robust discussion as to ambiguities as to how these agreements will impact IOLERO's operations going forward and how Measure P will or will not be hampered by these labor union agreements. Lt. Cutting reported on investigation timelines and the panel brought up concerns as to how whistleblower complaints would be handled. The Council discussed an action they could take to address their own concerns, as well as those expressed by the public through public comment and emails. Chair Zelig suggested that councilmembers may contact their appointing Supervisors as an action they could take until a more formal action can be taken, and requested that this be added to the August CAC meeting agenda. Councilmember Pemberton will draft a letter for that meeting.
- Public Comment: 10 members of the public addressed the Council.

5. Discussion of Sheriff Uniform Policies

- The panel discussed their interpretations of the Sheriff's Office uniform policies with regard to political campaigns. Councilmember Pearl offered up the question of whether or not Sheriff Essick approved the use of the uniform in the recent campaign for Sheriff. Councilmember Rose asked what discipline would be administered as a result of violation of these policies. The idea of the uniform representing authority discussed; however, Councilmember Bailey offered a different perspective, stating that members of the public may view the uniform as intimidating, based on their experience with law enforcement.
- Public Comment: Four members of the public addressed the Council.
- With regard to a possible action item to form a new ad hoc To address concerns about these policies, the Council agreed that the existing Policy Review and recommendation ad hoc would review these uniform policies and draft recommendations. Councilmember Flores joined this ad hoc to fill the vacancy left by former Councilmember Woods' resignation.

6. Community Advisory Council Ad Hoc Reports

- Community Engagement: Councilmember Flores reported that they have been unable to meet, though they are actively looking for outreach engagement opportunities in which to participate, including one at the end of July. Melanie Griffin reported that IOLERO has purchased a vehicle for outreach and also lots of giveaway items.
- Extremism in Policing: Councilmember Pemberton reported that they met with Lt. Cutting to review Sonoma County Sheriffs Office policies 319 and 320, which related to investigation of hate crimes and internal prohibitions on engaging in particular activities. Lt. Cutting stated that he is requesting information from another organization regarding these topics and then they will meet for further discussions of this material. Members of the ad hoc will be participating in simulator training. Chair Zelig encouraged all CAC members to participate in this training to understand what a deputy may experience in any given situation.
- Policy Recommendation Review and Update: Council Vice Chair Barrera reported that the jail is publishing twenty-two policies through Lexipol. The ad hoc will be reviewing all of them once they are published. They have been discussing other ideas to address. She also expressed the importance and impact of the simulator training.
- Public Comment: No members of the public addressed the Council.

7. Public Comment for items not appearing on the agenda

One member of the public addressed the Council.

8. Closing – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2022, at 6:00pm via ZOOM.