

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Albert H. West <accwest@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Independent Oversight of the Pasadena Police Department

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,

I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Safety Committee and crafted by Chairperson and Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.

Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, is safer when everyone knows that there is independent oversight over the police department.

This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to build.

I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safe Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn West  
1297 S. Oak Knoll Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

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**Subject:** FW: Police Reform and Oversight

**From:** Blair Miller <[blairmiller1@yahoo.com](mailto:blairmiller1@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** McAustin, Margaret <[mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Cc:** Morales, Margo <[mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** Police Reform and Oversight

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Council Member McAustin,

I urge you to vote for meaningful police oversight and other reforms to the Pasadena Police Department.

The vast majority of our Pasadena PD officers are well-intentioned and want to be in harmony with the community, and our Chief has done an admirable job trying to find a balance between public safety and freedom of expression. However, Pasadena has a history of problematic use-of-force incidents, including a traffic stop that led to the beating of Christopher Ballew. We need a police oversight body that consists of an independent auditor, and an oversight board with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

Over time, the role of a police officer has evolved far from fighting crime and enforcing the law. Police officers are required to spend their time on situations that could be better addressed by specialists in other areas, specialists who would not carry weapons. Homelessness and traffic enforcement are two areas where we should investigate other ways to manage these problems rather than using armed officers. This website has additional ideas for how to approach this issue: <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/>

Police reform is not a cure-all for our budget woes, but over time it could become a way to more appropriately meet the needs in our community while conserving scarce City resources.

Thank you,

Blair Miller

07/27/2020  
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## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Breathe Justice <breathe.justice365@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:24 PM  
**Subject:** \*Important: Police Oversight, an Urgent Matter

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers, kindly read this letter, *in its entirety*, and search your conscience for guidance, regardless of political allegiance and organizational ties.

Thank you for considering community oversight for the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). We want an effectual oversight body with meaningful authority. The proposed structure provides oversight in name only.

Pasadenans deserve better. We call upon you to promptly Amend the City Charter to create effective community oversight.

The international conscience awakening activated by George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police could have easily originated in Pasadena.

When Pasadena Police Officers killed Reginald Thomas in front of his family in 2016, the family lawsuit stated "An unknown officer put a knee onto Mr. Thomas' neck and applied the full weight of his body onto the throat area of Mr. Thomas until he was speechless and finally lifeless, intentionally squeezing the life out of Mr. Thomas."

Unlike George Floyd's killing, bystanders did not video Thomas' killing and officers wore no body cameras.

Instead of the Pasadena Police Department providing transparency and accountability, Pasadena taxpayers footed the \$1.5 million settlement bill and officers reportedly received no disciplinary action.

Pasadena Police Officers shot unarmed, 19 year old high school football star, Kendrec McDade, four times from the front and three times from the back and then their police car nearly rolled over his body in 2012.

When the Office of Independent Review's report of this incident described "repeated tactical errors," and that neither officer was disciplined, the Pasadena Police Officers' Association obtained a court order sealing the report from public view.

Councilmembers, please do not expect us to believe that PPD will voluntarily cooperate fully with an oversight body lacking subpoena power.

The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors recently voted to grant subpoena power to *their* Civilian Oversight Commission after LAPD repeatedly stonewalled their efforts to obtain highly relevant information.

If we continue on the path of oversight in name only, we risk perpetuating a city legacy of clandestine behavior, expensive legal settlements and unnecessary loss of life.

Truly Effective Oversight of the Pasadena Police Department has the potential to:

1. **Improve Community Safety** by Holding Officers Accountable for Inappropriate Actions
2. **Build Community Trust** by Increasing Transparency between PPD and the Community
3. **Save Taxpayers Millions of Dollars** in Legal Settlements

The community's demand for impactful oversight of the Pasadena Police Department is neither temporary nor a fad. It won't fade with a shift of major news headlines.

You *can* make a difference. The time is *now*. Your votes on this matter have lasting implications, both for our city and for your future prospects as a respectable elected official within it.

We request *fundamental tools* to make Pasadena safer for citizens *and* police officers.

We demand prompt Amendment of the City Charter creating effective community oversight with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

Thank you for your consideration,

Concerned Pasadena Citizens of B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Justice 365

*Let's Build Relationships & Encourage Alternative Tactics to Humanize Law Enforcement*

[breathejustice365.org](http://breathejustice365.org)

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Sandra Mitchell <jazzihoney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Police committee

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Safety Committee and crafted by Chairperson and Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*

*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, are safer when everyone knows that there is independent oversight over the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to build.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safe Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sandi Mitchell  
1162*

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Item 12 & 13

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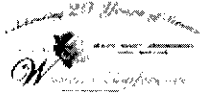
**From:** Lena Kennedy <Lkennedy@lkassociates.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Police Oversight Proposal

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Dear Mayor Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers:

Please be advised, as a member of the Pasadena NAACP, we urge your support of the proposal presented from the Public Safety Committee. It has been vetted by experts; and is a foundation for a way forward and upon which we can build.

Lena L. Kennedy, 626-765-6206  
President/CEO  
*SoCal Women's Conference*  
[www.socalwomenconference.com](http://www.socalwomenconference.com)



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**Martinez, Ruben**

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**Subject:** FW: Public comment - citizens police oversight commission

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ann hickambottom <[amhickambottom@gmail.com](mailto:amhickambottom@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** July 27, 2020 at 12:58:47 PM PDT  
**To:** "Jomsky, Mark" <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Subject:** **Public comment - citizens police oversight commission**

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Dear City Council: please be advised that as a member of the Pasadena NAACP I urge your support of the proposal presented from the Public Safety Committee. It has been vetted by experts; and is a foundation for a way forward and upon which we can build.

Ann Marie Hickambottom

Sent from my iPhone

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** ANDREA GOODMAN <sistermac@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Civilian police oversight

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Safety Committee and crafted by Chairperson and Councilmember John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*

*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, are safer when everyone knows that there is independent oversight over the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to build.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safety Committee for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

Andrea Goodman  
626-399-7229  
852 Chapman Ave, Pasadena CA 91103

07/27/2020  
Item 12 & 13



**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Diane Mitchell Henry <henrydchenry83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** DIANE MITCHELL HENRY-PUBLIC COMMENT

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

*Dear Mayor Terry Tornek and Pasadena City Councilmembers,*

*I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee as presented by the Public Commenter John Kennedy and Committee Member Mayor Terry Tornek.*


*Everyone, citizens as well as members of the police department, is safer when everyone supports the police department.*

*This proposal is a step in the right direction, and a platform on which we can continue to improve our community.*

*I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council rise to the moment and support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee.*

*Sincerely,*

*Diane Mitchell Henry  
91103*

 Reply Forward

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**Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Brilliant to Be Better**

*"If you hold your hand closed, nothing good can come in. The open hand is blessed, for it gives in abundance, even as it receives." (Bridget "Biddy" Mason, A real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, mid-wife/nurse, 1818-1891)*

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**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Len Tang <len@missiocc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** support for civilian oversight

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Dear Mayor Tornek and City Council,

I support the proposal for a civilian police oversight committee being presented by the Public Safety Committee. This is good for the public AND good for PPD because it establishes/rebuilds trust in PPD.

Let's take this moment to really make a change for good.

Sincerely,  
Len Tang  
Pasadena 91107

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**Len Tang**, Lead Pastor  
Missio Community Church  
100 N. Hill Ave, Pasadena

Phone: (503) 550-3598  
Web: [www.missiocc.org](http://www.missiocc.org)  
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



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## **Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** susan dembowski <susandembowski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Comment re City of Pasadena's proposed Oversight Commission for the Police Department.

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I'm a resident of Council District 4.

The Pasadena City Council needs to amend the City Charter to create a police oversight body consisting of an independent auditor and selected community members with subpoena power and an enforceable disciplinary role.

The current proposal does not grant any meaningful power to our communities which councilmembers have been elected to serve.

Pasadena citizens deserve better.

Please vote to amend the City Charter.

Thank you.

Susan Dembowski  
2080 Lambert Dr.  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
562 310-3790

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## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Dianne Magee <dmagee626@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Dianne Magee  
**Subject:** Public Safety Committee/Creation of Community Police Oversight Commission

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Dear Mayor Tornek and Pasadena City Council Members,

I support the proposal for a Community Police Oversight Commission as described in Agenda Report dated July 22, 2020

from Terry Tornek, Mayor, and John Kennedy, Public Safety Committee Chair, to the Public Safety Committee. I have great respect for

our police force but I also realize that today's police force is dealing with a lot more than safety and criminal issues.

Indeed, as the Agenda Report points out, there is a conversation about this topic at all levels of government in this country.

The City of Pasadena should be engaging in that discussion too.

However, civilian oversight must be done carefully and with respect for the police force and all the issues that they deal with. And similarly,

the police force must respect the concerns of the oversight committee. Respect on both sides and willingness to listen and learn

is essential!!! I feel that this recommendation is an excellent one—and it can be undertaken without a lot of delay.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Magee

PS Full disclosure: My grandfather was a police officer in Chicago 1920-1945

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# DRAFT: CREATION OF A COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Presented by: Vice Mayor Tyron Hampton

Date: Monday, July 27, 2020

07/27/2020

Item 13

POWERPOINT PRESENTED BY  
VICE MAYOR TYRON HAMPTON

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney to prepare an initiative for a vote by the people of the City of Pasadena, within seven (7) days, upon amending the City Charter to establish and empower a Community Police Oversight Commission, as described in the Background section of this report.

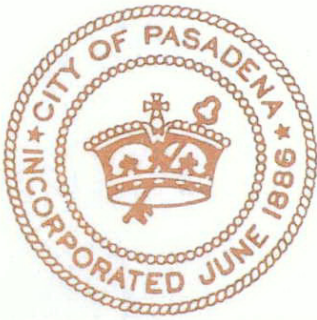
## ► Independent Police Auditor

- Selected by and reports to the City Council.
- Maintains an office provided for and approved by the City Council.
- Has responsibilities suggested in the Public Safety Committee's proposal.
- Additional responsibilities include:
  - Issue public reports and give presentations.
  - Serve in advisory role to the Chief of Police.
  - Review ALL Police Department personnel uses of force.
  - Review investigations of all complaints of bias-based policing.

## ► **Community Police Oversight Commission**

- Will consist of nine (9) members appointed by the City Council.
- Nominations: One from each councilmember, one from the Mayor, and an additional At-Large appointee from the Mayor.
- Has responsibilities suggested in the Public Safety Committee's proposal.
- Additional responsibilities include:
  - Direct the Auditor's work.
  - Serve in an advisory role to the Chief of Police allowing for appropriate community involvement in the Department's personnel processes.
- Each member of the Commission will be:
  - A Pasadena resident.
  - Required to complete at least 30 hours of relevant training.
  - Appointed to serve for a three (3) year term, eligible for reappointment to a second term.





# Agenda Report

July 27, 2020

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Tyron Hampton, Vice-Mayor

**SUBJECT:** CREATION OF A COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney to prepare an city initiative for a vote by the people of the City of Pasadena, within seven (7) days, upon amending the City Charter to establishing and empower a Community Police Oversight Commission, as described in the Background section of this report.

**BACKGROUND:**

Based on the information provided by the City Attorney's Office, Public Safety Committee discussions, suggestions by community groups and other concerned individuals, and the work of Mayor Terry Tornek and Chair John Kennedy, of the Public Safety Committee, the following is a proposed structure for enhanced community oversight of the Pasadena Police Department.

The proposed structure is that of a Community Police Oversight Commission ("Commission") coupled with an Independent Police Auditor ("Auditor"). This proposal will require an amendment to the City Charter, to ensure proper community input.

***Independent Police Auditor***

To assist the Commission in the furtherance of its mission, the City will engage an Auditor. The Auditor, who will be selected by and report to the City Council, will maintain an office with a budget provided for and approved by City Council – so as to be truly independent.

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MEETING OF \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA ITEM NO. Submitted by Vice Mayor Hampton

With respect to responsibilities, the Auditor will have the following responsibilities, as in the Public Safety Committee's proposal:

- Serve as a best-practices advisor to the Commission;
- Review investigations of all uses of deadly force and in-custody deaths to determine if the investigations were complete, thorough, objective, and fair;
- Review investigations of personnel complaints of bias-based policing;
- In conjunction with the Commission, recommend changes and additions to Police Department policies, procedures, and officer training; and,
- Perform related duties.

In addition to the Public Safety Committee's proposal, the Auditor will be empowered with the necessary access to personnel files to:

- Issue public reports and gives public presentations to the Commission, regarding Police Department operations, to the extent permissible under rules governing confidentiality of police officer personnel records in public reports.
  - To ensure that the Auditor's work is public and available for review by members of our community.
- Serve in an advisory role to the Chief of Police in the personnel selection, promotion, and discipline processes;
  - To ensure that the Auditor's role has sufficient authority to make a true and meaningful impact.
- Review all Police Department personnel uses of force; and,
  - Beyond the limitations of the Public Safety Committee's proposal, the Auditor should be able to review all uses of force by police, not just those resulting in death.
- Review investigations of all complaints of bias-based policing.
  - Beyond the limitations of the Public Safety Committee's proposal, the Auditor should be able to review all complaints of bias-based policing by

### ***Community Police Oversight Commission***

The Commission will also be selected by the City Council and will consist of nine (9) members, appointed by the City Council, and nominated as follows: one representative of each District, appointed by each member of the City Council; one representative of the Mayor, appointed by the Mayor; and, one At-Large representative, also appointed by the Mayor.

With respect to responsibilities, the Commission will have the following responsibilities, as in the Public Safety Committee's proposal:

- Review and make recommendations to the Chief of Police, City Manager, and City Council regarding the ongoing operations of the Police Department;
- Receive community feedback and complaints and refer them for further review;
- Monitor and receive reports on hiring and training;
- Monitor and publish statistics on uses of force, complaints and outcomes;
- Provide input on policy recommendations prior to adoption;
- Receive reports from the Auditor regarding critical incidents, policies, and other matters; and,
- Produce a publicly available annual report.

In addition to the Public Safety Committee's proposal, the Commission will be empowered with the necessary access to personnel files to:

- Direct the Auditor's work; and,
  - Subject to the City Council's ultimate authority over the Auditor.
- Serve an advisory role to the Chief of Police in personnel selection, promotion, and discipline processes.
  - Allowing for appropriate community involvement in the Department's personnel processes.

Each member of the Commission will be:

- A Pasadena Resident;
- Required to complete at least 30 hours of training in a relevant subject matter; and,
- Appointed to serve for a term of three (3) years, eligible for reappointment to a second term.

Modifications of the responsibilities of the City Council Public Safety Committee will be required to align with the support of the Commission and the reporting responsibilities of the Auditor.

If adopted by the City Council, this proposal will result in positive and measured steps to fulfill the promises made of civilian police oversight and will help the community achieve the promised opportunities for involvement.

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** LUGENIA ANDERSON <lugeannie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Police Oversight Committe

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear

Mayor Tornek and Pasadena city councilmember, I support the oversight committee as presented by the public safety committee and crafted by the chairperson councilmember John Kennedy and committee member Mayor Terry Tornek.

I urge that each member of our esteemed Pasadena City Council vote in favor of the proposal by the Public Safe Committee.

Sincerely

Lugenia Anderson  
455 MacDonald St.  
Pasadena, Ca. 91103

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