



Creation of a Community Police Oversight Commission

City Council Meeting
July 27, 2020
Item 12





Background

- **Across the nation communities are re-assessing:**
 - > The role of police in our society
 - > Funding levels for law enforcement relative to social services
 - > The laws, policies and procedures governing police departments.
 - > The appropriate level of civilian oversight
- **In Pasadena:**
 - > Renewed calls for enhanced civilian oversight
 - To build greater trust with the community
 - To provide a formal mechanism for community input into policing issues



Background

- **Public Safety Committee Discussions**
 - > June 24th – reviewed 2016 analysis and identified key legal questions
 - > July 8th – City Attorney analysis
 - Structure, roles and responsibilities of existing police review boards
 - Limits of potential changes without Charter amendment
 - > July 22nd – Discussion of proposal by Mayor Tornek and Chair Kennedy
 - Majority vote of the Committee to forward to City Council for consideration



Background

- Public Outreach
 - > Link to survey page on Homepage
 - Public Safety Committee reports July 8th and July 22nd posted
 - Over 600 responses to date
 - Community conversations by members of the Public Safety Committee



Proposal

- Establish a Police Commission coupled with an Independent Police Auditor
- The Community Police Oversight Commission
 - > Hold public meetings; review/make recommendations regarding the ongoing operations of the Police Department; receive community feedback and complaints; 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 Independent Police Auditor regarding critical incidents, policies, and other matters; and produce a publicly available annual report.



Proposal

- **Independent Police Auditor**
 - > Assist Police Commission;
 - > Serve as a best-practices advisor;
 - > 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;
 - > Perform related duties.
 - > Engaged through the City Manager's Office



Proposal

- Proposal is consistent with 2016 Analysis of Police Oversight Models
 - > A positive step towards greater civilian police oversight
- Can be implemented immediately
- If approved, Commission would be charged with reporting back in advance of 2022 General Election
 - > On any proposed changes in structure that may require amending the City Charter



Recommendation

- That the City Council consider whether to direct the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to the Pasadena Municipal Code, within 30 days, establishing a Community Police Oversight Commission