



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Regina Jackson: Good evening, and welcome to the Oakland Police Commission meeting, special meeting, for January 7th, 2021. Our first order of business is to call the meeting to order. Commissioner Dorado?
- Jose Dorado: Presente.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Garcia?
- Sergio Garcia: Present.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you. Commissioner Gage?
- Henry Gage, III: Present.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you. And I'm present for myself. And Commissioner Singleton?
- Tyfahra Singleton: Here.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you. Alternate Commissioner Dorado... Excuse me, Jordan. Pardon me.
- David Jordan: Present.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you. We are anticipating Commissioner Harbin-Forte joining, but we do have a quorum, so we will move forward on our business tonight. Can you update the slide? So, we've also done the roll call and determined that we have a quorum. So, the next item is public comment on our closed session items.
- Juanito Rus: Good evening. If any member of the public wishes to make comment on the closed session items of tonight's meeting, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue, and you will be called in the order in which your hands are raised. Let me quickly switch to the clock. At this time, I see one hand raised in the queue. Belongs to Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala, can you hear us?
- Assata Olugbala: I can hear you.
- Juanito Rus: Whenever you're ready.
- Assata Olugbala: Okay. I'm ready. The item for which you will be dealing with in closed session, [inaudible 00:02:33] deal with the selection of the police chief. This item has become a very degrading item, based on the fact that you had to pull it to do further... I guess you call it investigation into some circumstance, for which there's no clarity. Being that what happened with Janell Harris represents the lack of capacity for this commission to be involved in the very important issue of a police



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

chief. Anytime you will not deal with the fact that Ms. Harris was inappropriately pushed out of a position on the Police Commission and you choose to ignore it, and the members who are there replacing her and others were done in a process that you know was wrong and you won't look at the video. So, you continue to be [crosstalk 00:03:31].

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Olugbala. Your time has expired. At this time, seeing no further hands in the queue, Madam Chair, I return the meeting to you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. At this point, Commissioner Brenda Harbin-Forte has also joined the group, and since we have heard public comment, we will be closing out from this meeting and going into closed session. So, if everyone could please access your link, and we'll see you, and we will return just as quickly as we can. Thank you so much.

Chief Manheimer: Mr. Rus?

Juanito Rus: Yes, Chief?

Chief Manheimer: Do you know if this is continued at 6:30, or will they come back as soon as they're done?

Juanito Rus: They normally come back as soon as they're done with closed session, but they normally do not come back until 6:30.

Chief Manheimer: Okay. So, should we think it's 6:30, or should we just hold on?

Juanito Rus: If you would like, I can email you when they're back, or you can hold on. It's up to you.

Chief Manheimer: Okay. Would you mind emailing me? And I will keep it on, as well, but I'm going to go ahead and check some other things.

Juanito Rus: I can do that.

Chief Manheimer: Thank you so much, sir. I appreciate it.

Regina Jackson: Mr. Rus, we will with you in just a moment.

Regina Jackson: Okay. Mr. Rus, we will take roll call again... Or no, I guess I'll report out. Are we ready to go?

Juanito Rus: Whenever you're ready, Madam Chair.

Regina Jackson: Okay, excellent. The report out on the closed session is that on a motion by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Harbin-Forte, the police commission voted unanimously to approve the following four candidate names for the mayor's consideration as the City of



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Oakland's next Chief of Police. Leronne Armstrong, Jason Lando, Drennon Lindsey, Abdul Pridgen. The roll call is Chair Jackson, yes. Vice Chair Gage, yes. Commissioner Dorado, yes. Commissioner Garcia, yes. Commissioner Harbin-Forte, yes. Commissioner Singleton, yes. No other reportable action was taken.

Regina Jackson: Okay. If you can advance the screen, please. Okay. Thank you. Before we go into our open forum, I'd like to take a point of privilege for the chair to read a happy new year's message. Happy new year to everyone, and welcome to the special Oakland Police Commission Meeting for January 7th, 2021. This is our first meeting in a new year where our community is challenged by crime, pervasive joblessness and homelessness. Not to mention a holiday season many of us spent away from loved ones due to the raging pandemic. My heart goes out to Oakland and to all of America this week.

Regina Jackson: Yesterday's disappointing, but perhaps predictable fiasco in our nation's Capitol, yet again, underscores the importance of this commission's work. Thanks to your help, and your input, and your support, and yes, even your pushing. A deeply racist system must be renounced and uprooted across our country. While we can celebrate this week's selections of Democrats to finally take back the Senate, thanks to the selfless and underappreciated leadership of Ms. Stacey Abrams. We also cannot help, but recognize the undeniable racism motivating the current leadership. Is there anyone left who cannot see the drastic differences between how Black Lives Matters protestors were treated and how these anarchists were allowed to walk right past the Capitol police through the front and back door, and even open the windows of the halls of Congress to desecrate our democratic bodies, wreak havoc and take selfies.

Regina Jackson: And while we are working to set more accountable expectations here at home, we are all too aware that Black people continue to be shot, killed and maimed across this country, primarily because of their blackness. I want to call out to Ms. Wanda Johnson, mother of Oscar Grant, who has asked the DA to reopen the case, to hold responsible additional officers accountable for the treatment and ultimate homicide of her son. Also tonight, we will say farewell to our first commission president and appreciate him for his extraordinary service. We will complete our role in selecting the police chief candidates to move forward to the mayor, and review significant policies to determine how armed and unresponsive citizens are treated. We, as the members of the Oakland Police Commission, have a heavy load to serve you. We thank you for your continued support and your presence at our meetings. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Mr. Rus. Let's see, I wanted to have you open up the open forum. But I would like to, again, just do roll call, because I want to make sure that we have established our quorum and continued our quorum. Commissioner Dorado? Commissioner Dorado, are you here?

Jose Dorado: Yes, I'm here.

Regina Jackson: Okay. Thank you so much. Commissioner Harbin-Forte.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Brenda Harbin-Forte: Here.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Garcia.
- Sergio Garcia: Here.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you. I am here. And Commissioner Singleton.
- Tyfahra Singleton: Here.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. We do have a quorum. And I would like to turn it over to... And I'm sorry. Commissioner David Jordan.
- David Jordan: Here.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you very much. I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Rus to get public comment, please.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair. If any member of the public would like to make a comment on the open forum portion of this meeting, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue and you will be called in the order in which your hands are raised. Let me put on the clock. At this time I see three hands, four hands in the queue. I'll start. The first hand in the queue belongs to Ms. Cathy Leonard. Good evening, Ms. Leonard. Can you hear us?
- Cathy Leonard: Yes, I can. Good evening, everyone and happy new year. The domestic terrorist situation that happened last night at the state's Capitol, there were a number of police officers who were taking selfies with these terrorists. A former police officer with the Oakland Police Department was actually interviewed on TV today saying that he sided with the protestors and actually was there at the march. I think that's one of the problems with, not only the Oakland Police Department, but a lot of police departments across the United States. They're infiltrated by white supremacists who believe that people of color should be put in their place, murdered, maimed, racially profiled and these are the types that we need to weed out of every police department in the United States. These people are doing us no good and they're siding with anarchists. Thank you very much.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Leonard. The next hand in the queue belongs to a telephone attendee. The last four digits 0185. Good evening 0185, can you hear us?
- Michele Lazaneo: This is Michelle [inaudible 00:01:16], a spokesperson for the Bandabaila family. Performative gestures and actions are not and do not equate to progress, promises, ad hoc committees and open forums have proven insufficient. After seeing Jonathan Bandabaila at every meeting for 20 months and our requests for accountability, justice, and progress, all we have are a proposed missing persons policy and a checklist. OPD still has no social media policy and you and the city



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

council failed to mandate chief Kirkpatrick or acting chief Manheim to fully staff their missing persons unit. This commission was supposed to be the change agent for OPD, but in 20 months you changed nothing in the missing persons unit. You all represent Jonathan Bandabaila, his family, district five and all of Oakland. Why do you dedicate an agenda item to say thank you to Commissioner Smith, but not to address the issues crippling OPDs missing persons unit. Aren't you interested in learning all of the mistakes and failures made in Jonathan's case so that they can include-

Juanito Rus: Thank you Ms. Lazaneo, your time has expired. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala, Can you hear us?

Assata Olugbala: I can hear you. Let me start off by saying this I spoke about the cartel and MS13 at one of your meetings and somebody implied that this was supposed to be some device that moves. The reason why I know about the cartel and MS13 is because Mr. Gallo has stated many times at meetings of the city council, that there was a growing issue of the cartel and MS13 in Fruitvale. So you need to go speak to him because that's where I got it from. The other thing is this mayor attempted to get this man on the commission when it was decided that it was inappropriate for him to be on there and she also stated that she did not want to put Janell Harris on the police commission because Janell Harris didn't like her. She would think about putting them on the community advisory board. Something is wrong with you people and you know about this. You met with her Ms. Johnson.

Juanito Rus: Thank you Ms Olugbala, your time has expired. The next speaker in the queue is a telephone attendee the last four digits 9997 good evening, 9997 can you hear us? You may unmute yourself whenever you're ready.

9997: Hello. I just wanted to ask Chair Jackson, Commissioner Dorado or Commissioner Harbin Forte to address the public about the vetting of Brian Hawk and how that person came to be considered a strong contender to be on the commission, given that he had in his career defended the idea of extrajudicial assassination. In this case, it was citizens of the US who happened to be at the Yemeni descent, which is really tone deaf choice and the mayor says she based her decision on that conference with the three of you. I would like to apologize to the public for being so insensitive that you would do that and whisking the reputation of the commission by putting someone like that on the commission. I hope you do that today or sometime-

Juanito Rus: Thank you 9997 your time has expired. At this time, seeing no other hands raised in the queue, Madam Chair I return the meeting to you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. Can you update the slide please? So this evening is a sad evening for me, because we are saying goodbye to our very first Commission President Thomas Lloyd Smith. When we had absolutely no support, he stood up with the courage to lead. He has continued to help guide and support some of the most challenging policies and processes that we as a commission have



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

known and he has always been a support for me, particularly when I struggled through Robert's Rules of Order. My memories are great in terms of the expertise that he brought to the work, the authenticity of the quality of his contribution and his dedication through all the struggles.

Regina Jackson: I am delighted to be able to say that we are going to miss the more than three years of service that you offered and especially the extra service that you gave until the mayor could find a appropriate replacement because you didn't have to, but it was consistent with the hard work ethic that you have brought to this commission. At this point, I would like to be able to give other Commissioners an opportunity to share their goodbyes, their appreciations and their recognition. Commissioner Smith is on the call so he can hear you and the first person that has raised their hand is Commissioner Dorado.

Jose Dorado: Thank you, chair Jackson. Thomas we're going to miss you and nobody really knows besides you and Regina how difficult the job of chairing the commission is and you being the first, in that saying that I saw recently about the first one through the wall takes the most damage and I think that was the case in your case. We all saw you go into the job, taking the slings and arrows and the ups and downs of putting together what I call a house that has to have a solid foundation before you can put up the walls and I think you had a big, I don't think, I know you had a big role in terms of the commission, leading us through those first couple of years in building that strong foundation. So I want to thank you for that and wish you nothing but the best in the future. Again we're going to miss you. [foreign language 00:08:48], take care of yourself.

Regina Jackson: Thank you, Commissioner Dorado. Are there other Commissioners that would like to speak? Just raise your hand please. Okay. If there are no others, I know that so many of the members of the commission are new and perhaps haven't had an opportunity to develop the relationship. Oh, Commissioner Jordan, your hand is up.

David Jordan: Yeah, sorry. Sometimes it takes a second to figure out the Zoom nonsense. Yeah I think that my overlap with Commissioner Smith has not been the longest. I haven't had that same experience with him, that Chair and Commissioner Dorado have had, but I do think that taking on the responsibility of being the initial chair for what is this sort of very noble experiment that has been, I know very challenging and I know that the commission has sort of been forced to build the plane while flying it. As [inaudible 01:20:20] as that sounds for a number of years now and he was a big part of that and Commissioner Smith and I have not always agreed. We have publicly disagreed on these calls occasionally, but I do respect anyone who would volunteer to step up, take the responsibility, the abuse and what is in a lot of ways, a second full-time job.

David Jordan: And it should be said, whether you agree with him or not, or appreciate what he's done here. I respect him, if nothing else, and having been able to work on ad hoc with him, I do appreciate his skill and I think that we should all at minimum, just... we're always going to be differing opinions, but I think that we should all just sort of be able to say, at least that thing that, that he stepped up when not everybody does and he even stuck it out a little bit longer than he needed to. So thanks.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Brenda Harbin-Forte: Chair Jackson.

Regina Jackson: Yes. I didn't see your hand. My apologies.

Brenda Harbin-Forte: For some reason, I can't get the hand up.

Regina Jackson: No problem.

Brenda Harbin-Forte: Okay. I did want to thank Commissioner Smith. We didn't get a chance to work together for a long time, but I just want him to know how much I have always appreciated his input and how much I have always appreciated his diligent and his commitment to the commission. Thank you for stepping up to be the first commission chair and you have certainly done an excellent job. I'm going to miss you as well, so I thank you. I'm done.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. I appreciate it and I don't know what's going on with the hand, but no problem. Mr Alden, did you want to say anything? I don't know if your hand can't go up either.

John Alden: I am finding I'm having a little bit of challenge with my internet connection tonight. Can you hear me now?

Regina Jackson: Yes. Thank you.

John Alden: Great, thank you. I really enjoyed working with you, Commissioner Smith. You're one of the Commissioners that was here when I first came on and I really appreciate some of the insight you've given me and the other Commissioners about a lot of the things we're working on over at least the first year that I was here. I'm going to miss having you here, and I wish you a lot of luck in your work over in Antioch. I think that sounds like really challenging job and I don't know how you've managed to do both of these at the same time. So I wish you a lot of luck and I hope you'll stay in touch.

Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you very much, Nitasha Sawhney.

Nitasha Sawhney: Thank you, Chair Jackson. Thanks for allowing me a moment. I have had the privilege of getting to know Commissioner Smith from before his tenure on the commission and when I began serving as counsel to the commission, I got to witness again the absolute, amazing commitment and dedication that Commissioner Smith has shown and kind of everything that he touches and to see how he constantly is finding ways to use all of his professional training and his high level skills to better community, to now give of himself in community, I continue to find that very inspiring. I appreciate the confidence that he put in our firm in helping us to serve the commission and wish him all the very best.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Thank you very much and I've just gotten a message from Commissioner Gage who is also on the privacy commission and is in another meeting right now. He asked me to please pass along his thanks for your service, that this work is often draining and thankless and you shouldered such a heavy burden early on. So thank you for your service and if there are no other comments, I'm not sure Commissioner Smith, if you would like to say anything. Again, this will be sad to get on the screen next time and the time after that, without you being there, you have been such a constant.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: Yeah. I'll say a couple of things. Can you hear me?
- Regina Jackson: Yep.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: Oh, wow. It's been an amazing run and an amazing time and I think the most amazing thing about it is being able to build the relationships with the Commissioners that I had a chance to work with. Am I still? Yeah, I'm still there.
- Regina Jackson: Yeah you still on.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: I think the most amazing thing was being able to build the relationships with the Commissioners we get to work with. Most of them who were the founding group are gone now, but those of you who are following along, will see, as you build those relationships. The beginning of this commission was so amazing because we had nothing, we had no resources and I was just remembering how at the first meeting we kept talking about and every meeting thereafter, it seemed like we kept talking about training and people kept saying how they needed training.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: I felt like the first year we had training almost every other meeting. I mean, we had Brown Egg training, Oakland Sunshine Ordinance training, Public Records Act training. John Burriss came and did a training with the fourth amendment and legal rights of civilians dealing with police. We had The Neighbors For Racial Justice came and gave us training on implicit bias and racial profiling and we had an [inaudible 01:26:52] and then we had the commission retreat and we had a forum on homelessness. There was so much going on, but the amazing thing was we were so under resourced. We didn't even have a commission analyst at that time and to get our commission analyst who was Chrissie Love, it was with like a major victory when we got there. There's so many things that happened during that initial point in time. I remember the enabling ordinance that we worked on and the probation and parole policy.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: So much work was happening and I was amazed at how few resources that we've had. We've gotten more since then, but we're still under resourced and I also remember how grateful we were when we finally got John Alden, because we had not a healthy relationship with the first CPRA or executive director. So over that period of time, I think what you're inheriting as a new Commissioner is a situation that as challenging as it may seem is so much better than what we had when we initially stepped in because the commission wasn't even really taken seriously and



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

given the respect from that we were entitled to or that we expected when we entered the position. But now I think that we are respected and our authority is recognized and I think the challenge still persist in terms of building good relationships with the police department and making sure that we amplify the voice of those who are not heard, but those people have a forum to come to with the police commission and it's something that didn't previously exist.

Thomas Lloyd Smith: The people who come and speak at our police commission meetings, many of them didn't have this level of engagement around these issues in a public forum that was recognized like the commission is and so we really have lifted up and amplified those voices and we've done more than that by working with the coalition and the other groups, we've actually been able to also build bonds that will last far after my term on the commission and that continue to help influence policy and raise up the voice of people who are within the community of Oakland, living on a daily basis and want constitutional policing. So I'm really happy to have volunteered the time to build the relationships, like I said, very few of us founding members remain and I tip my hat to Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Dorado, we'll be friends for a lifetime.

Thomas Lloyd Smith: I just want to say it's really been a incredible experience and I thank Commissioner Jordan and Commissioner Gage for speaking. I've known them a shorter period of time, but still the clash as it occurs when you have different opinions and then you'll agree on something else later on and that's what happens when you are being real and keeping it real around what your opinions and positions are. But everyone on the commission is vested in this work and everyone's going to put their time in and their effort and energy and so no one should doubt whether or not the commission will be successful in the end. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much Commissioner Smith. We appreciate you. At this point I'd like to go to Mr. Rus to allow for any public comment, if any.

Juanito Rus: Thank you. Madam chair. If any member of the public was just to speak on item seven on tonight's agenda, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue and you'll will be called in the order in which your hands are raised. The first hand in the queue belongs to Ms. Cathy Leonard. Good evening, Ms. Leonard. Can you hear us?

Cathy Leonard: Good evening again, everyone. I too wanted to thank Commissioner for all of the work that he's done on the police commission being the first chair I know is just nerve wracking as you said, and it's true that you had no resources. I also appreciate you working diligently with the coalition for police accountability. I'm on the steering committee and we really appreciated your feedback and your ability to listen to some of the issues that we have raised. So thanks again and much luck to you in the future.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Leonard. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Rashidah Grinage. Good evening, Ms. Grinage, can you hear us?



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Rashidah Grinage: I can, can you?
- Juanito Rus: We can hear you.
- Rashidah Grinage: Great, Thomas we were there for the birth of the commission, as you know, and we witnessed the challenges that you faced and we appreciate everything that you did to persevere. I know it wasn't easy for you, that was clear, but you never gave up and we really appreciate the commitment that you have made to this commission and all of the work that you've done to help it be successful. So thank you so much, Thomas. We appreciate you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Grinage. The next speaker in the queue belongs to Anne J., it believe that, appears that, Ms. Janks, I'm going to assume that's Anne J., it says using an older version of Zoom, so I'm going to need to promote her to the panel. Excuse me. Good evening Anne, can you hear or miss J.?
- Anne Janks: Yes. hi, it is Anne and being told you're using the older version of Zoom is having an AOL email account nowadays. So Commissioner Smith, I wanted to thank you. [inaudible 01:33:33] It's not insignificant to have somebody coming from the NAACP, such an esteemed organization and having that be an initial part of the commission and I feel like you got the baby out of the NICU. I wanted to also just thank you for working on the most recent ad hoc and the training bulletins that are on the agenda this evening. Once again, the commission is trying something new in terms of how they're doing policy development and engaging the community and you were a part of that, as one of your last acts and just wanted to thank you. I know that it often took a personal toll with your wife sitting in the audience waiting for you, even on your anniversary. So thanks again.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Janks. The next speaker in the queue is Mariano Contreras . Good evening, Mr. Contreras, can you hear us?
- Mariano Contreras: Yes, good evening. I just wanted to also express my thank you to Commissioner Smith. I don't know if you remember Thomas and I'm going to call you Thomas because I'm a little older than you, is when you were so willing to go with us and advocate to different council people. I remember sitting there with you when we were talking with Councilman Dianne and I learned a whole lot about your demeanor and your ability to listen and also express your concerns. Also I just wanted to express that, you had so much support from the community, particularly from the NAACP and that just says a whole lot about you. I really appreciate your work and I hope the best for you. Thank you so much.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Mr. Contreras the next speaker in the queue, excuse me one second, is John Jones III. Good evening, Mr. Jones, can you hear us?



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- John Jones, III: Yes. Thank you. Good evening and happy new year, everyone. I just want to say a few words, Commissioner Smith, it's really been an honor and a privilege to get to know you. I appreciate the conversations we had. I definitely just appreciate your service and I'm wishing well for you and your family and your love members, I mean your loved ones as you move forward in the things that you are doing. The last thing I want to say here is this, because I remember like there were some rocky moments, but that's okay because we're human beings and I just appreciate how you responded to those tough times and that to me showed your leadership. So just take that with you as a learning opportunity to just be your best at all times. So thank you so very much for your service on behalf of the city of Oakland.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you Mr. Jones. At this time, seeing no further hands raised in the queue, Madam chair, I returned the meeting to you.
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: Just want to say thank you to everyone and my wife was here listening too, so she was nodding her head. My Man Janks was talking about every night she was in the audience and everyone, John and I just want to [inaudible 01:37:24] everybody and Mariano, I want to say thank you so much. Wow, what an experience it's been, I've learned so much and grown so much and really appreciate all the relationships we were able to build together. Thank you.
- Regina Jackson: And thank you to your wife. Thank you for your service, Mrs. Smith.
- Mrs. Smith: You're welcome.
- Regina Jackson: We'll see you guys in the new year.
- Jose Dorado: Bye bye now.
- Regina Jackson: Bye-bye thanks. Mr Russo, if you could go ahead and advance the screen for us, please. Thank you.
- Regina Jackson: So the armed and unresponsive person's policy draft I was proud to be on this committee with Commissioners Smith and Jordan. We had some extraordinary commentary from our community partners and Janks, Lorelei Bosserman and Omar farmer and not to mention the ways in which the Oakland Police Department bended and flexed. They were pushed quite a bit and they went with it. There was a labor of many hours on the primarily of the community and the police department in between betwixt in between our weekly meetings and I just want to appreciate the fact that I believe that we have come up with perhaps the first in the nation of a protocol to approach citizens who are both armed and unresponsive, such that no De Maria Hog or Joshua Pollack will ever happen again. At this time, I would like to call on Commissioner Jordan to share some comments and then if there are members of our ad hoc that have been promoted to panelists, Anne Janks, Omar Farmer Lorelei Bosserman would love to have you all comment as well. Commissioner Jordan.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

David Jordan: Great. Thank you. I just really quickly just want to give a brief summary about what changes were made in this train Bolton, what things we put forward and where sort of values lie around developing this policy and I also want to really reinforce the idea that what we did here in this ad hoc is different from our previous ad hoc. I think they have been an evolution and we are working to increase the amount of community participation and transparency in our process. I think that's vital and this is sort of the product of that. As chair said, it is very much a partnership between the community, the commission and the department. So I'll just get to a summary, I'm not going to go through the documents sort of piece by piece. I'm just going to sort of run down some highlights.

David Jordan: So the big element is that we increased specificity without limiting flexibility in the decision-making process, we centered a lot of the language around people centered language, taking it away from most specifically at the very top and title of the training Bulletin. But what's was non-responsive subject changes to people in all sorts of situations, in which it was people or whatever it was. It was moved in all situations in which it was subject change to people so that we really are cognizant that these are people, human beings that we're talking about here. The clarity was improved, there was jargon replaced, or at minimum, there was a sort of concise explanation of jargon included, if it was felt it was necessary to stay in. There was increased emphasis on deescalation and there was even some language providing for officer disengagement under specific circumstances, which was I think an amazing step forward for us strengthened the language around differentiating between those that might be in possession of a firearm versus those that might be in possession of another item that can be perceived as a weapon and how important that is in the protocol.

David Jordan: We brought the language more in line with the New Use of Force Policy. We added specific language covering vulnerable populations and the highlight in the ways in which engagement with these groups might include specific challenges and may require additional care and caution to ensure a safe outcome.

David Jordan: I can't not touch on this, but one of the things that I think that was one of our biggest sticking points and I think was a real success, was around sort of the increased specificity was in the language there was a sort of blanket use of the word cover and we were able to sort of differentiate between armed cover and physical cover, which may sound like it was no big deal, but believe me, it was quite a battle. And I really do thank officer Turner, Sergeant Turner and Janks for fighting that battle for us. That's all I have, unless there's any other questions or pass it on to the members of the community. Thank you.

Cathy Leonard: Excellent synopsis Commissioner Jordan and as you mentioned, Commissioner Smith was with us through that policy and so we really appreciated his contributions as well. I think if there are, well Sergeant Turner, would you like to comment on the policy on your perspective?

Sergeant Turner: Yeah. Thank you chair. So again, Sergeant Joe Turner with the policy and publication units, and I think on behalf of chief LeRonne Armstrong who was the OPD lead for this and captain Nishant



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Joshi as well as chief Manheimer who's present tonight. I think that the police department was really enthusiastic about participating in this ad hoc and the results speak for themselves, or really happy to come to this. This is a policy that it is a long time coming. We pride ourselves on having our officers trained to the highest level and welcome this ability to bring in these perspectives, and have them reflected, the perspectives of our community reflected in our policies. Sometimes, we get a little insular. Me included, and so it's nice to have this ability to check our biases, to find common ground, and to really move forward with a product that I think is exceptional.

- Sergeant Turner: And I thank you, Chair, I thank Commissioner Smith. I really had an excellent time working with him on this and some other seminal policies that we've presented, and I'm happy to be part of it. Thank you, Chair.
- Regina Jackson: Outstanding. Thank you very much. So I think at this point, if other commissioners have any questions, any thoughts before we go to public comment, now would be the time. And since some folks are being challenged by the hand raising apparatus... Oh, I see Commissioner Dorado's hand up.
- Jose Dorado: Thank you, Chair Jackson. Throughout the reading of this policy, I kept thinking about Joshua Pawlik. He may still be with us, if in fact this policy would have been in effect at the time in March of 2018. One of the things that jumped out at me was the idea or the provision about using a robot to... or the removal of a weapon on page 14, talking about utilizing robots to attempt to remove the weapon from the person without exposing the officers to risk. How wonderful it would have been to have had that option on that fateful night. So I really didn't have a question, it just brought within the context of the Pawlik shooting, I was glad to see this kind of detail in the proposed policy. So I just want to compliment everyone that was involved with it. It's certainly a huge step forward and a job well done. Thank you.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Are there any other comments or questions from commissioners? Okay, I see no hands raised. I'm not sure if anybody is struggling to manage that hand up, you can jump out if you need to. Commissioner Smith, I see that you're still with us. Did you want to make any comments on this policy?
- Thomas Lloyd Smith: No, not at this time. I think it's adequately covered. Thanks for asking though.
- Regina Jackson: Okay. Thank you. Okay, seeing no hands for questions or comments, we'll go to you, Mr. Rus for comment.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair. If any member of the public wishes to make comment on Item 8 on tonight's agenda, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue. Excuse me.
- Regina Jackson: And I do hope that in this space, that our community members who participated heavily in the ad hoc will speak up as well.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Juanito Rus: I see that the first hand raised belongs to Ms. Janks. Would you like to give her unlimited time-
- Regina Jackson: There we go.
- Juanito Rus: ... or should I keep it to a minute?
- Regina Jackson: We could give her time. I mean, her perspective was critical. So why don't you set it for three minutes, and if she doesn't take it, then that's fine.
- Juanito Rus: Very well. Ms. Janks, I have promoted you to the panel. You should be able to unmute yourself.
- Anne Janks: Thank you. So I want to thank both the commissioners and the OPD officers who participated in this. One of our goals, of which everybody was very tolerant, was to have language that would be understandable for community members who might be reading policies. And I think that we achieved that, and I think it was obvious we thought it was worth doing, but everybody was very tolerant of minor changes that didn't impact the meaning, but did make it an easier document to be understood. I hope we can let the families of Demouria Hogg and Joshua Pawlik know that those situations were at the front of everybody's minds and hopefully, are adequately addressed.
- Anne Janks: We also really worked hard in terms of, even though it hasn't happened recently in Oakland, we've seen it happen over and over again in other jurisdictions, of interactions going very, very badly when a member of the public has a weapon other than a gun, and the language I think around that is exceptional. I also wanted to just thank the commission for continuing to experiment with new ways of engaging the public and of doing policy development and I think it was effective. I think it was a good way to do it, but it's also just continuing to experiment with new ways I think is incredibly valuable. So thank you very much.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Janks. The next speaker in the queue... Excuse me while I reset the timer to one minute. The next speaker in the queue is listed under the name Gee, G-E-E. Good evening. Oh, it appears that Gee is also on an older version of Zoom. Let me move Gee to the panel. Good evening, Gee. You can unmute yourself at any time.
- Ginale Harris: Thank you, Mr. Russe. This is Ginale Harris.
- Juanito Rus: Good evening, former Commissioner Harris.
- Ginale Harris: How are you? I just want to say thank you to all involved, who worked on this policy and to the department, I want to say this is yet another and one more step closer to relationship with community, so in that, I want to thank you. I've sat in on when we were doing the policy for use of force, and again, it was an amazing experience.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Ginale Harris: I would like to just stress that Joshua Pawlik unfortunately had to lose his life in order for us to get this policy change. So I just want to say I'm sorry that this had to happen, but I do want to recognize Demouria Hogg and his sacrifice as well. So he's an Oakland resident as well, so I'd like to just do this thing in his name. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Harris. Excuse me, I was muted. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala, can you hear us?
- Assata Olugbala: Yes. I find it interesting that you talk about community engagement, and the selective community engagement is with the Coalition for Police Accountability. There was no public notice for which community could be invited to participate in this process. You selected this notorious Coalition for Police Accountability, who participated in eliminating Ms. Ginale Harris from the Police Commission. So if you're going to have community engagement, let it be open to anyone and everyone who's interested in it. That means you have to have a public notice. I look at all of the meetings online. And I never saw anything concerning this.
- Assata Olugbala: As well, policy doesn't mean you're going to get the solution you want. We got a policy with racial profiling, we got a policy against excessive force. There's no guarantee because you have a policy, you're going to get results.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Olugbala, your time has expired. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Rashidah Grinage. Good evening, Ms. Grinage. Can you hear us?
- Rashidah Grinage: Yes, sir. I just want to thank everybody who was involved in creating this policy. Hopefully, it will save lives going forward. That's the purpose of it, and I hope it will set a model for other jurisdictions to follow as well. So, thanks to everybody who helped to make this policy real and comprehensible. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Grinage. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Cathy Leonard. Good evening, Ms. Leonard. Can you hear us?
- Cathy Leonard: Good evening, yes. It's Cathy Leonard with the Coalition for Police Accountability. I want to thank everyone who worked on this policy, which will save lives. And I'm glad that the police department agreed that that is something that they should be doing.
- Cathy Leonard: I would like to pay my respects to the family of Demouria Hogg and Joshua Pawlik. Had this policy been in place, they would both be alive. Their families are going to suffer, and friends, for the rest of their lives. I'd like to see the next policy around how we're going to investigate missing persons cases. And I'd also like to say for the final time, that a lie repeated is still a lie. The Coalition had absolutely nothing to do with Ginale Harris not being re-appointed. So to repeat that same lie over and over again does not give it any truth. Thank you.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Leonard. The next speaker in the queue is a telephone attendee with the last four digits 9997. Good evening, 9997, can you hear us?
- 9997: Hello. So, can you hear you?
- Juanito Rus: We can hear you.
- 9997: So first, I want to thank everyone who participated. This looks like a really good policy. It's years late, so kudos to everyone and I'm happy that you can influence the police to change policies like this. However, I think that the commission needs to come up with a community engagement policy that passes the smell test. Everyone knows who the most engaged people are at the police commission, and it's laudable and it's admirable that those people are this informed, engaged, and become subject matter experts.
- 9997: That doesn't equate to those people being representative of the community, and I also do not recall any community engagement process that was visible to the public. So there definitely needs to be a way to have a credible policy of extending the invitation to the community to participate. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you. The next speaker in the queue is another member of the ad hoc, Mr. Omar Farmer. I'm going to promote him to the panel briefly. Good evening, Mr. Farmer. Can you hear us? You can unmute yourself whenever you're ready to talk.
- Omar Farmer: All right, good evening. I just wanted to say that participating in this ad hoc was a great experience for me personally. And I just was very appreciative to have been able to have a voice in this process, when the Oakland Police Commission offered to the community at the August 27th meeting about being able to volunteer as a part of this ad hoc. For me personally, Mr. Pawlik, that incident happened close to my daughter's school and it really kind of rocked that community. So being able to play a small part in resolving some of those issues that led to the tragic events that led to his death, and Mr. Hogg's death, as well as seeing how flexible and open-minded OPD had been throughout this process for me personally did provide some hope for the future. That's all.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Mr. Farmer. At this time, I see no other hands raised in the queue. Madam Chair, I will return the meeting to you.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. At this time, if there are commission members who wish to make a motion to approve this policy or raise any additional questions, the time is now. I see a hand from Commissioner Dorado.
- Jose Dorado: Thank you, Chair Jackson. I move that this policy be approved by our commission.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Regina Jackson: Excellent, thank you. It has been properly moved. Is there a second?
- Brenda Harbin-Forte: [inaudible 02:00:10] seconds. Oh, I'm sorry.
- Regina Jackson: That's okay. I was going to recognize Commissioner Garcia, but I guess it's fine. So, are you okay with that Commissioner Garcia? I think [crosstalk 02:00:26]-
- Sergio Garcia: I'm perfectly fine with that.
- Regina Jackson: Okay, very good. So it has been properly moved by Commissioner Dorado and seconded by Commissioner Harbin-Forte. We have received public comment. I believe we're ready to vote. So, Commissioner Dorado?
- Jose Dorado: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Harbin-Forte?
- Brenda Harbin-Forte: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Garcia?
- Sergio Garcia: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Aye for myself. And did I miss anyone else? Okay. Excellent. So we are unanimous. Thank you very much. This was an exceptional process and much like Mr. Farmer mentioned, I have mentioned in several police commission meetings the invitation to follow-up and sign up for the Armed & Unresponsive ad hoc, and that is in fact what happened. Ms. Janks, Mr. Farmer, Ms. [Bosserman 02:01:28]. They all followed up and said that they would like to be included. I will say now that the third policy that we are working on, which we just started working on is the militarized equipment, and we will have a community forum. Our flyer is coming out tomorrow. The forum will be Monday, January 11th from 6:15 to 7:15. Anyone, anyone in the community at all is asked to participate.
- Regina Jackson: It will be on our website, on our Twitter, and we will send out via email. Thank you. If we can move to the next slide please, Mr. Russe? Okay. So the Dedicated Arrest Teams policy draft is the second of three policies that have been tasked to us by the judge in advance of the Management Conference. All three of these are related to the Pawlik case, and obviously the subject also impacts Demouria Hogg as well. Mr. Jordan, Commissioner Jordan, and/or Commissioner Smith, if you all want to talk a little bit about this policy before we go to public comment, that would be great.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

David Jordan: Commissioner Smith, wanted to let you take the lead on this, if you choose. If not, I can do a quick summary.

Regina Jackson: Go ahead, take it away, Commissioner Jordan.

David Jordan: Okay. So, this is essentially the same group of people working on this ad hoc, and as the Sheriff said, this sort of relates to the two incidents that we've mentioned, unfortunate incidents. The Dedicated Arrest Team policy and training bulletin is more in the silo of a piece of technical writing than the previous policy or previous training bulletin, in that it really does lay out a lot of if this, then this steps, so there was less sort of philosophical debate.

David Jordan: Although many of the language components that we developed in the Non-responsive Arms policy was carried through to this. And honestly, I think a lot of those things should probably be carried through uniformly as we go through additional policies.

David Jordan: This again was primarily about improving clarity and increasing specificity around how that should be utilized. It also brought this training bulletin more in line language-wise with the recent Use of Force policy as well as the previous policy we just discussed. And additionally, the one other big component more around sort of principle and philosophy, with really sort of reinforcing the idea principles of de-escalation, some of which existed within the policy and they were bolstered through our conversation and edited. That's primarily where this goes, but open to questions. It's pretty straightforward though, thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Do any of the commissioners have any questions or comments on this policy? As I mentioned before, this is the second of three policies that have been required of the commission to review and pass before the Management Conference with the judge in mid-February. Okay, Commissioner Dorado?

Jose Dorado: Well, thank you, Chair Jackson. This policy made me think more of Demouria Hogg. I think it relates more to his... that situation. I did have a couple of questions. One was on page four, under utility, that was an interesting aspect of the policy in terms of a situation like somebody unresponsive but armed in a vehicle. So one of the questions I had was under vehicle driver, about two-thirds of the way down, it says, "Armored vehicle, throw-and-go vehicle." What's a throw-and-go vehicle?

Regina Jackson: Sergeant Turner, did you want to address that?

Sergeant Turner: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Chair, with your indulgence through the chair. A throw-and-go vehicle, so throw-and-go is basically if the officers have a plan to take someone to the hospital, so for instance, if either the ambulance has not arrived yet or there's something that's so serious in that immediate vicinity, for instance, if someone were to get injured, we designate maybe an officer to be ready with their car sort of at the periphery of the incident so that if we need to load someone,



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

a community member, an officer, what have you into that vehicle and immediately sort of throw them into the police car, have a police officer maybe providing first aid while that driver drives that person to the hospital. So it's a medical response.

Jose Dorado: Okay, thank you. That clarified it, because I had no idea what that referred to. The other question I had was specific to a situation like Mr. Demouria Hogg's scenario. Was there any strategy, I suppose would be the word, if it was able to be a do-over?

Jose Dorado: Was there anything that came up that really was a viable alternative to deal with the situation of unresponsive person with a firearm in a vehicle? And that's where the utility section interested me, because it talked about breaching tools and bullet-resistant shields, et cetera. So my question is, was there any viable strategies that came up out of the discussion around this section of the role of a utility officer and the various tools that are mentioned in the specific scenario such as was encountered with Mr. Hogg?

Regina Jackson: Sergeant Turner?

Sergeant Turner: Yes. Yes, Chair. Thank you. Yeah, through [crosstalk 02:09:24]-

Regina Jackson: I'm sorry, I figured you'd be best to respond to this.

Sergeant Turner: Yep, my pleasure. So, yes. Commissioner Dorado, you're correct that the after action debriefs of that unfortunate incident with Mr. Hogg was one of the things that led to for instance, using some of this other specialized equipment that previously, previous to that incident, was reserved solely for the Tactical Operations Team, which is a part-time team that they're not always on duty.

Sergeant Turner: So some of that equipment was not available to patrol officers to include for instance, the armored vehicle or some of these things like bullet-resistant shields. And so now, yes. You're correct, the reason why we have some of these things specifically laid out in the policy is because for instance now, the watch commander vehicles for the patrol watch commanders have these bullet resistant shields in there, so other plans could be drawn up. For instance, something to maybe entail the officers approaching behind a shield for some way of separating the person from a firearm, in the case of an armed, unresponsive person or something of that nature. Some other way to interdict and lower the tension in that, and try and take away the weapon, so as to allow the officers to continue to de-escalate.

Jose Dorado: Thank you, appreciate it.

Regina Jackson: Did you have any more questions, Commissioner Dorado?

Jose Dorado: No, I did not. Not at the moment. Thank you.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Regina Jackson: Oh, okay. Very good. Are there any other questions from commissioners? We now have the policy up on the screen for easy reference. Seeing no questions, no hands. I think we can go to you, Mr. Russe, for public comment.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair. If any member of the public wishes to make a comment on Item 9 of tonight's agenda, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue, and you'll be called in the order in which your hands are raised. Excuse me while I change the time on the timer. The first hand in the queue belongs to Bruce Schmiechen. Good evening, Mr. Schmiechen.
- Bruce Schmiechen: Can you hear me?
- Juanito Rus: We can hear you.
- Bruce Schmiechen: Great. So I just want to in relation to this policy and the previous actually to note that the Coalition for Police Accountability doesn't think that we've reached nirvana in terms of the process by which these policies have been done. We actually put forward quite a while ago a policy process proposal, which the commission has not been able to act on because everybody who's watching this commission knows how the ball has been rolling there. So many things, everything that needs to be done has not been done, can't get done. People stepped up, did some really brilliant work. I don't think anybody thinks the previous thing is sustainable or the way everything must be done in the future.
- Bruce Schmiechen: And I also want to say no group has done more to engage the public in commission policy and processes than Coalition for Police Accountability. We had to cancel a large meeting we had on use of force because of COVID. So we've done the work.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Mr. Schmiechen. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala, can you hear us?
- Assata Olugbala: Yes. This Coalition for Police Accountability is getting on my last nerves. Mary [Vale 02:13:37], Lorelai Bosserman was on that selection committee, and Cathy Leonard had told me personally that the Coalition wanted to get rid of this lady, Ms. Ginale Harris. Anyway, it would have helped if this policy could discern when the citizens or anybody read it, could see what parts of it were new, what parts of it were... if the whole thing is a whole new policy, or are you contributing to new aspects of it? I don't know. I don't know what you did.
- Assata Olugbala: So sometimes, they have policies that have been worked on in different colors, so you know what's been added. The other thing is, I'm assuming you had the Coalition for Police Accountability as the community. When I said community involvement, you're not talking about me, I don't want to be involved with you guys. But for those who do want to be involved, put out a public notice.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Olugbala. The next speaker in the queue is Mariano Contreras. Good evening, Mr. Contreras, can you hear us?
- Mariano Contreras: Yes, thank you. I think the Unresponsive Persons policy and this policy, they're great. But witness the actions of police in DC yesterday, officers I believe know how to follow policy when it comes to race. What my question is, so what are the accountability measures, and what is enforced if supposed... this policy's thrown out the window when it involves a person of color. I just want to know what the accountability enforcement policies are. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Mr. Contreras. Okay, next speaker in the queue is Ms. Cathy Leonard. Good evening, Ms. Leonard. Can you hear us?
- Cathy Leonard: Yes, I can. There's some Trumpian behavior going [inaudible 02:16:03]. There will be some truth to it. I never had a conversation with Ms. Olugbala where I told her that the commission wanted to get rid of Ginale Harris. That is an outright lie. Stop spreading lies, Ms. Olugbala. You know that's not the truth.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Leonard. At this time, I see no further hands in the queue. Madam Chair?
- Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Again, another excellent piece of work by the ad hoc, and we certainly appreciate the community members, Anne Janks, Omar Farmer, and Lorelai Bosserman alongside Commissioner Smith, Jordan, and myself and absolutely appreciating Sergeant Turner, Captain Joshi and Deputy Chief Armstrong for their contributions. At this point, since we have taken public comment, I am interested in a motion to approve this policy as well.
- Sergio Garcia: So moved.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you, Commissioner Garcia. Do I have a second?
- Jose Dorado: Second.
- Regina Jackson: Commissioner Dorado, sorry. Okay, it's been properly moved and seconded by Dorado and Garcia. Can we take a vote now, please? Commissioner Dorado?
- Jose Dorado: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Garcia?
- Sergio Garcia: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Harbin-Forte?



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Brenda Harbin-Forte: Aye.

Regina Jackson: And aye for myself, and I believe we have lost Henry Gage, so I'd like to promote Commissioner Jordan, and hopefully you'll be able to stay with us for the rest of the meeting for any voting opportunities. Commissioner Jordan?

David Jordan: Yes, aye.

Regina Jackson: Excellent, thank you. We are unanimous on the approval of this process. I thank you all. I would like to once again state that we are continuing to, as Commissioner Jordan mentioned, evolve in our community engagement process. I want you all to know that there is a public posting, a flyer, and a mention on the website of the Militarized Equipment policy. I do believe that the current policy is there, and I'm not sure, I would need to double-check with Mr. Russe if there is a red line as well, so that as Ms. Olugbala recommended, that people can see the progress as it's happening.

Regina Jackson: I know that we were able to access this for the Use of Force, so I would recommend that if admin has not already done so, that you do so at the earliest possible time. The flyer is on the screen, but I will again say it's Zoom list, there's phone numbers available, and the event will happen this Monday, January 11th, from 6:15 to 7:15. And while we'd be happy to hear any comments or questions you have, we have two very specific questions that we really would like to get community feedback on. And those are when should OPD be authorized or prohibited from using an armored vehicle? And what are the downsides of OPD deployments of an armored vehicle? This doesn't mean that we don't have our own thoughts on the answers to those questions, but we certainly would like to hear from a broader spectrum of the community to understand if there's anything that we might be missing or not considering. We hope that you all will join us to provide insights and experience or best practice or, or just your thoughts. We value them all. And to Bruce Schmiechen's point about a policy document, it's totally my apologies if I somehow did not act on it. If you could send it or resend it to my email, I would love to be able to review it and forward it so that we can review in depth at our commission retreat, which will be coming up. Thank you very much.

Regina Jackson: So, Mr. Rus, if we can move forward to the next agenda item. Okay. Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. So it has been mentioned, and we had a visit from Commissioner Harris in November. She stated that there were some concerns, particularly around communications, invitations to meetings, and she read a letter of concern from at least five members of the task force who are most impacted in terms of where they live or their experiences, and are considered to be subject matter experts of their own experience. At that time, Commissioner Smith proposed that we write a letter to the founders of the task force, council members, Nikki Fortunato Bas, Loren Taylor, as well as the facilitators David Muhammad. And we in fact did so. The letter is included for everybody's knowledge. And that is what this item is about, is to allow any questions or comments from both the commission and the community on this item.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Regina Jackson: And we will likely be asking Commissioner Harris to join us again. I will reach out to her to find out what her availability is to schedule either a meeting at the January 14th or maybe January 28th meeting. She will be able to determine what makes the most sense. So having said that, are there any comments or questions from the commissioners? Okay. I see no hands, so we can go to public comment, Mr. Rus.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this time, if any member of the public wishes to make comment on item 10, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue and you will be called in the order in which your hands are raised. And the first hand in the queue is G. That's, I believe, former Commissioner Harris. I'm going to promote Ms. Harris to the panel.

Ginale Harris: Thank you, Mr. Rus. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to say that we had a meeting last night and there was no mention of this letter. And so there was an appearance of some bias going on by the facilitators that black voices are not important. And my colleagues that have signed that letter are on this, are in the audience tonight if you have any questions. I appreciate the letter. However, the letter was never mentioned by anyone on the task force. So I don't know if it was just given to them or when it was given to them or if they wanted to even discuss it. There's a lot of that going on in the Reimagining Task Force meetings. Again, there is an appearance of some biases because black voices don't count. That is what it feels like to the five of us. So if you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Commissioner Harris. I wanted to respond to you. I sent the letter out, I believe two weeks ago. It has been acknowledged by both council member, Taylor and Bas. And for the life of me, I do not remember if Mr. Muhammad responded to it. I can go back and then follow up with you tomorrow on that. So definitely have, as you know, I sent you a copy so that you would know exactly what we wrote in advance of this meeting. And if you think that a call on my part to any one of them, all three of them, or even more than that is necessary, I'm happy to do so. So maybe we can talk tomorrow.

Ginale Harris: Thank you, Chair.

Regina Jackson: You are welcome. Commissioner Jordan, I see your hand up.

David Jordan: Yes. So I've also been, and I'm sure that there are other people on this call other than the members that Commissioner Harris just mentioned who, who have also been attending either as task force or unlikely task force members, but advisory board members. I know that there are many people who are involved listening on this call, who also are doing both. And like I said, I also listened in to the task force meeting last night. And it's frustrating because I think that there are a significant amount of good ideas coming out of this work. And there's a lot of energy and a lot of really dedicated, smart people putting a lot of time into what's happening here, but it does sort of feel like it's... I question how it's going to sort of play out. And whether things will sort of come to fruition the way we want them to. And I also, in some ways, very much agree with Commissioner



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

Harris that what I've seen is it does feel as though some parts of the task force and the process has been somewhat insular.

David Jordan: I don't know that that was an intentional, you know, act by, on anyone's part. There are a lot of very sort of policy woke type people involved in this process, and they've really run with the sort of the idea and it, you know, it does leave some people, myself in some ways, although, you know, I am versed in policy. It does leave me feeling sort of like I'm looking in from the outside. I don't feel especially involved a lot of the time. I guess I could have been more proactive, but it's challenging. So I will definitely give them that. And I do feel it's sort of, there's a tone deaf approach sometimes from leadership of this. There was an email that went out to all advisory board members and task force members in response to the initial letter by Ginale and her group of task force members asking for greater racial equity.

David Jordan: And it sort of reiterated some of their initial points. From my perspective, though I agree with a number of them, it felt a little bit directive and heavy handed. It also sort of suggested that everybody get in line and, you know, pledge to work on their agenda as if, and if you did not agree with their agenda, it was because you didn't understand what it's opposed to, actually just disagreed, which is, you know, a common thing. Just because I don't agree with you doesn't mean I don't understand you, but, you know, we all fall into that trap sometimes. It does feel like it's being sort of held back by failure to really integrate all perspectives. I think that there are a lot of people working on both sides of this that have best intentions. And I, but I do question where it's going. That's all I have.

Regina Jackson: Wow. Well, again, appreciate your insight, but it is disappointing to hear. I had such high hopes for the task force. I still do, but it doesn't sound like it's going in the right direction. Are there any other comments or questions by commissioners or... Oh, excuse me. I'm sorry. We were going to public comment. My apologies.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Regina Jackson: Mr. Rus, I'm sorry.

Juanito Rus: The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala. Can you hear us?

Assata Olugbala: Let me say this about Ms. Harris. Ms. Harris is truly a very dedicated and sincere person. If I had been in Ms. Harris' shoes and went through what she has gone through with this commission in the coalition for police accountability and the mayor, I would never have anything to do with you people. But Ms. Harris doesn't work like that. The other thing is this. I have never, I participate in a lot of meetings, a lot of them, but that taskforce for accountability, I've never one time weighed in with them. Because I know what's going to happen. I know Bas and I know Taylor, and I know what's going to happen when this all comes to an end. And some of you are beginning to see it



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

yourself. It is not the police that has caused the problems. It is the council, the city administrator, and the mayor that has oversight over the police that has been the problem.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Olugbala, your time has expired. The next speaker in the queue is Bruce Schmiechen. Good evening, Mr. Schmiechen. Can you hear us?

Bruce Schmiechen: Yeah hi. I'm assuming you can hear me. I just want to say, yeah, I want to coming off with Gin, Commissioner Harris said, and David Jordan, there's a lot of... I have high hopes for the Reimagining Task Force. Ultimately, there are so many problems in terms of particularly community engagement. The last time they did community engagement, about 12 people from the actual community showed up, maybe 10 or 11, I can't remember, but it was very few considering how high impact this task force is going to be. It was disappointing and this was citywide call-out for community engagement. I never got a notice from my council member that any of this stuff was even happening. So I think we need... And I also want to commend in this short time, I really want to commend Commissioner Harris, my friend, John Jones, III, the other task force members who wrote that guidelines letter, I think is right on the money. Thank you.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Mr. Schmiechen. The last speaker in the queue on this item is a telephone attendee with the last four digits 0185. I believe that's Michele Lazaneo . Good evening, Ms. Lazaneo. Can you hear us?

Michele Lazaneo: I can. To be clear and open, missing persons cases disproportionately affect black families, but it hasn't been met with any sense of urgency. We have a new re-imagining task force and the only five black voices are being excluded or ignored. And on December 31st, OPD began their text to 911 option and lauded it as a safe and reliable resource for residents to contact OPD. Yet in 2015, BART PD implemented a similar app for riders. 68% of the complaints described black people as offenders and suspects, even though only 10% of the daily customers are black. Black riders use the app to complain to police about black and homeless people and to repeat non crimes. Do you see a pattern here, because I do. Thank you.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Lazaneo. And one additional hand has been raised in the queue. The next speaker is Gokce Sencan. Excuse me if I mispronounced your name. Good evening. Can you hear us?

Gokce Sencan: Hi. Yes. I can hear you. My name is Gokce Sencan, and I live in Oakland, and I read a very disturbing news report published on the Oaklandside today about three police officers who, like previously employed police officers, Facebook posts, where he praised what happened yesterday at the Capitol. And you can find the link on Oaklandside website, but I'm just going to give you the names of the OPD officers named in the news article. One of them is Abel Al Cantar, I believe. It's A-B-E-L A-L C-A-N-T-A-R. The other one is Cynthia Espinoza. And lastly, it's Brian Hernandez. And I would like these three officers to be investigated and I don't want them policing my community. This is all. Thank you.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Sencan. At this time seeing no further hands raised in the queue. Oh my apologies. Another hand has been raised. The next speaker is Keisha Henderson. Good evening Ms. Henderson.
- Keisha Henderson: Hi. Yeah. So I am one of the members that is a part of the guided principles the five of us, and the previous male that spoke, he spoke very well of what was going on in the meetings. However, I just wanted to just bring just a small clarity to what's the power struggle right now, and the power struggle is the five black members. We are talking about bringing equity into the black communities and centering public safety around black lives and making sure that it's a balance between the community and the police, whereas some others that are part of the task force board and the advisory boards, they are a part of this defund-the-police movement. And I had to make it clear last night that the legislation that we signed had nothing to do or never stated defund the police. Reimagining is about bringing equity back into the community. It's not about this defund and getting rid of all of the police.
- Keisha Henderson: So that is the power struggle that we are going through right now. And I just don't understand as a black resident, and born and raised in Oakland, why is it such a problem that five black members decided to-
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Henderson? You can phase out. The next speaker in the queue is John Jones, III. Good evening, Mr. Jones. Can you hear us?
- John Jones, III: Yes. Good evening. And thank you. I just want to share that as a member of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force and one of the co-signees of that letter, I fully support and endorse everything that Commissioner Harris has shared. And to be just totally honest, I'm disappointed in a lot of things. And I think that as it relates to the police commission and the appointment of Commissioner Harris, I really think that the voters who create the police commission understand these issues. And I would love to see more support of the work that Commissioner Harris has done on task force, as well as the rest of us. At the end of the day, we're just censoring the people who are harmed by all of these societal ills. And the last thing I want to say is so important because as we talk about public safety, it's not just a matter of the police. It's really about addressing what I call a diminished quality of life. So I want to thank you all on the police commission for your letter and for really having this conversation because it's much needed in this current moment.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you Mr. Jones. The next speaker in the queue is Carol Wyatt. Good evening, Ms. Wyatt. Can you hear us?
- Carol Wyatt: Yes. I can hear you. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak. Can you hear me?
- Juanito Rus: We can hear you. Whenever you're ready.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Carol Wyatt: Yes. Thank you. I am also a member of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. I happened to be appointed by the community police and advisory board, and I did want to echo the sentiments of Ms. Harris and all my fellow colleagues who are on this call. I wanted to just also raise awareness about the equity that Ms. Henderson spoke about. The concern I have as a West Oakland resident is that there does seem to lean a little bit of agenda in this communication that we're having with some of the folks that call in that concerns me as a CPAB member, because my goal and objective is to share the information with the CPAB, who will work directly with the communities through their NCPCs, their block commissions, their resident action councils, and all the other people in the community. So that is something that I needed to share with this body. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Wyatt. The next speaker in the queue is Ms. Cathy Leonard. Good evening, Ms. Leonard. Can you hear us?
- Cathy Leonard: Yes. I just wanted to express support for the letter that was written by Ms. Harris, John Jones, and Cynthia, I'm sorry, Carol Wyatt. I understand exactly what they're saying in their letter. I've had conversations with two of the authors of the letter, and if we're serious about what we're saying we're doing, we really need to listen to these five people. They are living the experience. I've lived the experience too, as a born and raised black woman and lived all over the city of Oakland. So thank you, police commission, for your letter in support of the five authors. Thank you.
- Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Leonard. At this time seeing no further hands raised in the queue, Madam Chair, I return the meeting to you.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. And I just want to say once again, we appreciate so many of the community members, especially the ones on the task force, speaking up. You know, when it happens, when one person says it, you want to give it credit, but when five people, six people are saying it, it's a big problem. And I only hope that we can actually help facilitate this problem, because as I've said in several previous meetings, if we are not centering black lives, those that are most vulnerable in policing because of racial profiling, because of systemic racism, and because of decades-long mistreatment, harassment, and murder, then reimagining public safety is a crock. If we cannot make it safest for the most vulnerable, then it's not worth anything to anybody else. So thank you to all the members who spoke up. As I mentioned, Commissioner Harris, I will be following up with you tomorrow so that we can see what further support or action can take place to ensure that they focus on the things that make the most sense. Moving to the next item on the agenda.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. So the commission retreat. At our last meeting, we selected a facilitator. Since that time we've identified a date. It will be Saturday, January 30th, from 10 to 4. It will be a Zoom call. The community will be able to have a link to participate, to listen in. And one of the things, as I've mentioned several times, we have an agenda that is primarily in concert with some of the policy protocol recommendations that were made by the city auditor. And so approaching policy will be one of the things that we move forward on. We will also be identifying what policies that we want to look at over this next year. And while I do not make the ultimate decisions, the missing



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

persons, social media, community policing, handcuffing, and racial profiling will be on my personal list of preferences.

Regina Jackson: So Michelle and those that have been speaking, yes, we hear you. And we want to be able to prioritize our action plans moving forward. We just haven't had enough time to do so in the process of our meetings. So we needed to have a special, dedicated time to focus on the structures and policies so that we can make our work more efficient and more effective on behalf of the entire community.

Regina Jackson: We will be promoting the date and activity and the access probably in the next week or so. We have a few other things to do. And of course we will be back here next week for our regular commission meeting.

Regina Jackson: In the meantime, I have asked several commissioners who have since rolled off to also participate because they do provide expertise, capacity, and specific knowledge of the challenges and the gaps that we have come up against over the last three years. And so I'm delighted whether they can spend an hour or the entire time with us. It will help all of us move much forward in terms of productivity. At this time I don't know if there are any questions from the commissioners, any comments? Oh, I did want to mention that at this point, I believe the facilitator has met with, via Zoom, several commissioners, both former commissioners, as well as current commissioners. And I will continue to report on developments as we move forward. Are there any questions from the commissioners or comments? Okay. I'm seeing none. We can go to public comment.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Madam Chair. If any member of the public wishes to comment on item 11, commission retreat, please raise your hand in the Zoom queue and you'll be called in the order in which your hands are raised. The first speaker is Ms. Assata Olugbala. Good evening, Ms. Olugbala. Can you hear us?

Assata Olugbala: Yes. I'm noticing something. There are several commissioners, I never hear you say anything. Is this going to be a pattern? So at your retreat, could it be discussed how you have a involvement process where all of the commissioners participate. And I noticed this is a pattern too. Whenever you talk about anything black, everybody gets silent except for Regina Jackson. So if you're going to have a hard time talking about black people, you going to be silent real. And is this going to be a retreat at the coalition for police accountability, is going to be involved in helping you do what you do. And you cannot continue to say we're going to just move on from what happened from Miss Ginale Harris, that a lot of police people that believe in you. I don't, my voice is going to continue to say you did wrong when you came to Ginale Harris and you can't get past it.

Juanito Rus: Thank you, Ms. Olugbala. Your time has expired. And at this time I see no other hands raised in the queue. Madam Chair, I return the meeting to you.



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

- Regina Jackson: Okay. Thank you very much. Seeing as there are no questions, we can move forward to adjournment. I will ask for a motion.
- Jose Dorado: Chair Jackson, I had a few comments on the [crosstalk 02:46:46] and please bear with me because there's several of them.
- Regina Jackson: Okay.
- Jose Dorado: First of all, in terms of the letter to the task force, I certainly support it. And it was absolutely right on the money. One of the disappointing parts, and I'm going to be interested to see what the response back to you will be, but one of the interesting aspects that or one of the interesting things I heard today, tonight, was that only 12 people showed up. And so it makes me think of the four, I believe it was, no, it was probably closer to six hours that we heard after, during the summer, which most of the comments around the demonstrations, they're the ones that called in, ended with F the police.
- Jose Dorado: So we heard hours and hours of that, but yet when it comes down to dedicating some time to actually do some work, we only have a few, we only have a dozen people city wide to show up to actually come up with the kinds of substantive support that's needed to develop this kind of policy. So that's really, that's really disappointing. The other thing is that there was a comment about divisive comments regarding cartels and MS-13. Well, if you're going to talk about that in terms of anti-immigration, then I'm going to call it out. I'm going to call it every time. It has no place in police commission meetings. None.
- Jose Dorado: The other thing is I want to apologize for any impression of myself or the commission, and I'll just speak for the commission in terms of the consideration of Mr. [Houk 00:28:39]. It certainly wasn't being that we're insensitive to his role. We simply did not know. And that was our bed. Certainly I'll take responsibility for the fact that I just missed that completely. He has no business being on this commission. He had no business being considered given that, and just for myself, I simply didn't know, and I apologize for missing that.
- Jose Dorado: The last thing is that for the gentlemen that spoke about a community engagement policy, if you have any or anyone has any thoughts about how that our community engagement can be more extensive, can be improved, we certainly are open to that. And I take particularly interested in that because we will be having a discussion around the draft policy of 15-01. And I would very much that we have an ad hoc committee.
- Jose Dorado: So I would very much like us, the ad hoc committee for 15-01 to have as extensive a notice to the community for input as possible. So please direct anything our way that would help us in that regard. And lastly, and I'll be quick. This is directed to the Interim Chief Manheimer. I don't know if she's still on the line. I hope so, but this is directed to you, Chief. If you had any questions about why we will continue to have discussions about white supremacists in OPD, they should have



OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING TRANSCRIPT

January 7, 2021

been answered. Those questions should have been answered loud and clear with the events yesterday in Washington, DC. This is what fascism looks like. This is what domestic terrorism looks like. This is what white supremacy looks like. And there has to be consequences. No matter what happens to Trump, white supremacy will not go down without a fight. And so they have to know that we're coming for them and that their white privilege will not protect them. So that's my, that's my message.

- Jose Dorado: We will have a third meeting regarding the topic of white supremacy. Why white supremacists, what's being done by OPD to have white supremacists identified within OPD? What are the white supremacists in Oakland and around Oakland and what are the connections between the two? So thank you very much for your indulgence .
- Regina Jackson: Here, here, Commissioner Dorado. You took the words out of my mouth and then some. Thank you very much for your comments throughout. And you know, we'll be back here a week from now with a whole 'nother list of focuses and priorities, but we shall not rest until we make sure that all racist people are rooted out of OPD. So thank you very much for that. At this point, I will take a move to adjourn the meeting. It is now 8:25.
- Sergio Garcia: So moved.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you, Commissioner Garcia. And I saw a hand, [crosstalk 02:52:11] Commissioner Dorado. Okay. It's been properly moved and seconded and we will vote. Commissioner Dorado?
- Jose Dorado: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Harbin Forte?
- Brenda Harbin Forte: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Garcia?
- Sergio Garcia: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Thank you. Commissioner Jordan?
- David Jordan: Aye.
- Regina Jackson: Excellent. Aye for myself. We are adjourned. Thank you very much to the community. Appreciate your indulgence this evening. Powerful, powerful messaging. We'll see you hopefully January 11th at the ad hoc for militarized equipment and next Thursday, January 14th, for our regular commission meeting. Thank you everyone. Thank you, commissioners. Goodnight.

Love, Christine (Chrissie)

From: Mary Vail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Love, Christine (Chrissie)
Subject: my public comment for 1/7/21 Police Commission

[EXTERNAL] This email originated outside of the City of Oakland. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and expect the message.

1) Yesterday's events in DC and biased policing: We already have this problem in Oakland. OPD commanders serially make discretionary decisions to deviate from crowd control policies, event Court-revised , ordered policies.

The Commission must insist that it stop AND no more putting same OPD commanders who have done this over and over in charge at scene. And the Police Chief should not be allowed to keep promoting these individuals.

2) New OPD Chief finalists:

A) Better wait, dig deeper than to select a flawed candidate.

B) Given the many problematic incidents in OPD, 2015-2019, OPD's problematic culture, OPD's regressive NSA compliance history since 2017 and the damage done from having a former Chief who's modus operandi was a combination of resisting the Commission, lying on the job and not doing anything that would interfere with her having a BFF relationship with the OPOA, I just don't think that any of the internal candidates could change OPD's trajectory or the better. I don' believe the two external candidates have displayed the experience and capacity to change OPD for better, either. The job is bigger than "fixing" OPD-community relationships. The real job is transforming OPD, not talking about it.

C) Any candidate will inherit a leadership team. The group promoted in 2017 included some with problematic records (that issue raised in 2017 regarding former Chief 's top promotions, fell on deaf ears). ALL the final applicants should be closely questioned.

Mary Vail