



# SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## College Police Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2022

2:00pm – 3:00pm, Zoom

**Committee Members Present:** Joel Peterson, John Parker, Daniel Brislin, Kimberly Tapia, Nadia Sayeh, Darius Spearman, Caitlin Tiffany, John Bromma, Kimberly Palek, Anna Liza Manzo, Neill Kovrig, Cat Le, Joseph Ramos, Aaron Burgess, Nancy Schumaker, Patrick Velasquez

**Committee Members Absent:** David Mehlhoff, Kevin Branson, Marie Migambi, Emily Smith, Xi Chen, Gerald Brown

Meeting commenced 2:03 pm

John Parker asked for a motion to approve the agenda and was approved with unanimous consent as presented. Motion was made to approve the June 13, 2022 minutes as presented with unanimous consent; Neill abstained.

John Parker and VC Peterson provided an update on recording the meetings for the purpose of minutes only. These meetings will continue to be recorded solely for the purpose of minutes; but will not be made available or accessible for any other purpose.

John Parker shared that the PAC bylaws were promulgated and adopted by the Chancellor's office. This committee can present recommendations to changes of the bylaws to the Chancellor, but it will be up to the Chancellor to accept and adopt any changes. VC Peterson further explained that the bylaws were drafted and put in place following the original recommendation by the previous Task Force to form an ad hoc advisory committee to be constituted by the Chancellor for balance of the academic year, which ended June 30, 2022. One of the items the Task Force addressed was the possibility of the ad hoc Police Advisory Committee moving to a standing Chancellor's committee; and, if they chose to become a standing meeting the bylaws were drafted so that they would be in place without the Police Advisory Committee needing to create them. They were drafted with intent that if they needed to be revised, the Police Advisory Committee could provide recommendations to the Chancellor. The committee members in attendance unanimously agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to define the bylaws of this committee.

VC Peterson provided an overview of the acquisition of tasers. The district acted on recommendation of the Task Force to have the police department explore options that would provide the ability to either avoid escalation or de-escalate circumstances. The police chief recommended tasers and the Chancellor's cabinet supported moving forward with the acquisition of tasers as an additional non-lethal tool. State scheduled maintenance money will be used to purchase the equipment, including maintenance, upkeep and training. The officers will have annual recertification training. The district police department is the only local agency at this time that does not have tasers. Chief Ramos emphasized that the priority is to protect the district and de-escalate situations using the least amount of force necessary. Tasers will provide officers with some safe distance without needing to draw a firearm. The consideration to acquire tasers was not based on any specific incident but was in response to the Task Force recommendation. Patrick asked if the department will maintain data on each deployment of tasers along with reasoning and outcome? Chief Ramos confirmed yes and stated that tasers also capture data that can be downloaded including how many times it has been used and when it was deployed. Audits will be conducted and information recorded.

VC Peterson reported concerns addressed regarding officer attire while on campus. Discussions with Chief

Ramos included the opinion that it was best practice for officers to wear uniforms so the public understands they are not members of the general public but that they are sworn peace officers. Chief Ramos made official recommendation to the district and district leadership to retain officers wearing uniforms. VC Peterson will look into information provided previously by President Shabazz pertaining to Compton College to see what their experience was and consider implementing or replicating if it is still being practiced successfully. There is concern with formerly incarcerated students having heightened sensitivity to uniformed officers. VC Peterson acknowledged that the district is trying to respond by being responsive and that decisions will be informed by data. Darius asked if this committee will have the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback? VC Peterson confirmed that the purpose of sharing ongoing information and insight with this committee is to create a two-way dialogue to share viewpoints that can be brought into recommendations for best practices. Darius emphasized existing problems with police interactions, not a PR issue or individual perceptions, but instances where functions of the police on campus interfered with the instructional mission of the campus. VC Peterson confirmed that he is keenly interested in hearing particular problems and addressing them. Chief Ramos believes less formal dress may create more issues where a uniform gives command presence and authority to act when they show up. Chief Ramos wants to know more about specific incidents, complaints and distractions on campus. John Parker will carry this agenda item to a future agenda to afford everyone the opportunity to be heard.

Chief Ramos addressed several types of emergency trainings that will be offered when we return to in person instruction including active shooter program (ALICE), C-Cert, R.A.D. Upcoming dates and information will be coming soon to the campuses.

VC Peterson shared that the process to hire mental health professionals is underway and wants this committee to have opportunity to share thoughts. The district is looking to finance the position for three years. They are looking at peer programs to determine the scope and duties along with integration with the police department. They will create a description to go out to hire so we can learn from the data once deployed to see how it's working and then revise or improve. Once the data is generated, they will determine how many positions are needed. Nadia asked if there are any campus mental health counselors looking at this? VC Peterson stated he wants to include insight and input from those familiar with the campuses. Hiring trained mental health professionals that can respond in addition to or instead of police officers was a recommendation from the Task Force. There was some confusion if the positions have to be under the police department and Kimberly Tapia clarified that there are two separate grants that she is involved with; one grant does not involve the police and the other does. Due to timing, this agenda item will be carried to a future agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm