

COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

2nd Floor City Hall, Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair David Hammontree.

2. ROLL CALL – Current membership is at 5 (Full Board). Three Commissioners are needed for quorum.

A. Commissioners Present: David Hammontree (Chair), Shalanda Hunt, Vittoria Jimerson (Secretary), Salena Taylor, Thaddeus Williams (Vice Chair).

B. City Council Liaison Absent: Christy Davis (excused).

C. Staff Present: Deputy Chief Sergio Garcia.

i. Quorum Achieved (5 Commissioners present).

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Motion to adopt the agenda made by David Hammontree, supported by Salena Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

(3-Minute Limit)

A. Citizen Comment Guidelines: Individuals will state their name and have three (3) minutes to address the Commission. Persons may only address the Commission once under this public comment opportunity and may not yield their time to others. Commissioners will not debate or answer questions at this time.

i. No Citizen Comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of July 10, 2025 Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 10, 2025 was made by Thaddeus Williams, supported by Vittoria Jimerson. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

- A. Incidents
 - i. 3 homicides have been reported during 2025. In all 3 incidents, all suspects have been apprehended, are in custody, and proceeding through the court process.
 - ii. No unusual trends beyond these incidents.
- B. JPD Updates
 - i. 3 new officers recently graduated from the police academy and are completing FTO.
 - ii. 1 officer resigned following the November 6, 2024 incident involving the use of deadly force in the line of duty.
 - iii. 1 recruit currently attending the police academy to become an officer for JPD in December.
 - iv. JPD currently has 46 sworn members. The goal is to have 51 sworn members to support traffic enforcement, crime unit operations, and school assignments.
 - v. Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
- C. Policies and Procedures
 - i. There is an ongoing inner department review of all policies.
 - ii. There is an emphasis on fairness to both officers and members of our community.
 - iii. Currently have annual training and equipment testing in place.
 - iv. Discussion on sharing general policy information with the Commission and the public (de-escalation, extradition, cold case processes).
 - 1. Recent extradition from California cited as an example of interagency cooperation.
 - v. Recognition of community involvement in solving cases.

- D. Community Outreach
 - i. Topics for Commissioner/public education:
 - 1. De-escalation
 - 2. Extradition
 - 3. Cold Case Procedures
 - 4. Redefining Perceptions Around 'Snitching'
 - ii. Discussion on addressing gun violence, including data on firearm recoveries.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- A. Board Development Activities for October
 - i. Use of Force Training for Commissioners in 2026.
- B. Complaint Review Committee
 - i. Available during gap months as needed.
- C. Informational Committee (Hunt and Jimerson)
 - i. See 9.C.

8. UNFINISHED ITEMS

- A. Goal Setting
 - i. Need to improve communication about the Commission's activities, goals, and roles in the community.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION (NEW ITEMS/COMMISSIONER CONCERNS)

- A. Commissioners Discussion on Community Perception and Outreach
 - i. Commissioner Taylor began a discussion on various concerns and frustrations:
 - 1. Stressed the importance of communicating that all complaints receive equal investigative efforts from JPD, regardless of the victim's identity or connections.
 - 2. Addressed misconceptions following recent high profile cases, clarifying the importance of strong community cooperation, not preferential treatment.

3. Expressed concern that the Commission remains largely unknown to the public despite operating for three years, with no group photo, media coverage, or public awareness of its role and work.
4. Shared personal observations from reviewing complaint data, concluding that JPD's negative reputation in the community is often unwarranted and based on misinformation.
5. Emphasized that the Commission should be seen as a positive bridge between the police and the community.
6. Noted divisions within the community, including comparisons of homicide case timelines, and urged unity in supporting all victims and families.
7. Recounted recent incidents of gun violence during and after a community event, underscoring the ongoing need for police presence and public cooperation.
8. Urged the Commission to remain active and vocal in sharing accurate information about police work, reinforcing that community members may need to rely on law enforcement one day.

B. Discussion on Unsolved Cases, Community Cooperation, and Public Perception

- i. Commissioners and JPD Deputy Chief Garcia discussed the challenge of solving violent crimes in a small city without community cooperation.
 1. While some families maintain ongoing contact with investigators and receive updates, others may be unaware of the investigative progress.
 2. DC Garcia emphasized that cases remain open indefinitely and leads are pursued as far as possible, given the available evidence.
 3. Acknowledged long-standing mistrust and cultural attitudes toward "snitching", clarifying that providing information about violent crimes when not personally involved should not be considered "snitching".
 4. Urged residents to share solid, verifiable information rather than rumors to help bring closure to families.

5. Highlighted the recent murder case as an example where community cooperation led to a quick arrest, noting that the circumstances resonated widely because the victim could have been “anyone’s daughter, granddaughter, or niece”.
6. Raised concerns about the prevalence of firearms in the community, including youth access, and the need to address how weapons are obtained.

C. Community Outreach

- i. Based on Open Discussion, the focus moved to public outreach strategies:
 1. Community Forums.
 2. The importance of open forums to highlight Commission accomplishments.
 3. Advertising and invitations for community participation.
- ii. Proposal to use the October gap month to host a CPOC Engagement (Q&A) Session. Motion to proceed with a Community Forum was made by Salena Taylor, supported by Shalanda Hunt. Motion passed unanimously.
- iii. Work toward the October 9, 2025 Community Forum/Engagement Session with open dialogue.
 1. Coordination with City Staff to book the 2nd Floor Chambers (Shalanda Hunt).
 2. A summary sheet of CPOC accomplishments (Deputy Chief Garcia).
 3. A QR code for residents to submit questions or concerns.
 4. Information-gathering activities.
 5. Refreshments and community building elements.
 6. A group photo to increase public recognition of the Commission.
 7. Community Forum/Engagement Session planned in 2 parts, possible collaboration with the Youth Council and City DEI Department.
 8. Fact sheet to include relevant community information.

D. National Guard Resource Table

- i. 300-400 new members in the area. Vittoria Jimerson will contact Chief Simpson for more information.

10. CITY COUNCILMEMBER LIAISON COMMENTS

- A. None.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. None after a lengthy discussion. The consensus is that Commissioners are ready to move forward with public engagement.

12. STAFF COMMENTS

- A. None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

14. NEXT MEETING – Scheduled for November 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.