

The Citizen Police Complaint Commission

CPCC History

The Citizen Police Complaint Commission (CPCC) was created on April 10, 1990 by a vote of the electorate of the City of Long Beach. City Charter Sections 1150 - 1155 were added which established an independent investigative commission. The Charter Amendment authorized the Commission "to receive, administer and investigate allegations of police misconduct with emphasis on complaints of excessive force, false arrest, and complaints of racial and/or sexual overtones.

The Citizen Police Complaint Commission is empowered to conduct hearings. The Commission may subpoena witnesses and records through the City Attorney's Office when necessary to facilitate the fact-finding process. The Commission is a fact-finding body and makes findings and recommendations, which are submitted, to the City Manager for review and final adjudication. The CPCC is neither an advocate for the Complainant nor for the Police Officer. The Commission's obligation is to ensure that professional police conduct is maintained at all times.

The Mayor appointed the first eleven Commissioners in August 1990, after they were nominated by the City Council. On September 5, 1990, the Commissioners were sworn in at their first official meeting. After intensive orientation and training, they began their mission of investigating allegations of police misconduct filed against Long Beach Police Officers.

The investigative process is directed toward the review of police actions. Although the Commission Investigator may conduct investigations independent from the Police Department, such investigations are only necessary when the Police Department has failed to conduct a thorough comprehensive investigation. When a review and analysis of the Police Department investigation proves to be deficient, then the CPCC Staff commences an independent Commission investigation. This has not been a significant problem and excellent cooperation from the Police Department has been experienced.