Annual Report 2018

CITIZEN POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSION
The Citizen Police Complaint Commission’s 2018 Annual Report details the work of the CPCC, including complaints received, investigated and closed by the CPCC during the 2018 calendar year. As in previous years, the report includes a distinction between the overall CPCC workload, which includes cases from the current and previous years, and the number of new complaints filed by the public during the year. The report does not reflect the number of community complaints reported to the LBPD each year.

In recent years in Long Beach and across the nation, communities question and express concern about the actions of police officers. Some call for agencies to establish Civilian Oversight Boards (COB) for law enforcement agencies or to reexamine the existing COB’s. While determined to balance accountability and fundamental fairness, the CPCC continues to look internally and externally to grow with the changing roles in law enforcement and with the community’s expectation of engagement and transparency. 2018 saw necessary investments made into building the capacity of the CPCC to best meet its responsibilities to the community.

I thank Mayor Robert Garcia and the City Council for their continued support of the CPCC. I also thank the Commissioners and staff who demonstrate tireless dedication to all aspects of the CPCC; the City Manager; and, the Long Beach Police Department, notably the Internal Affairs Division. The collective professionalism, courtesy, cooperation, and assistance of all involved are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weithers, Manager of CPCC

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**Table of Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FROM THE MANAGER OF THE CITIZEN POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSION (CPCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CPCC COMMISSIONERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>STAFF AND SUPPORT STAFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ABOUT THE CPCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HIGHEST STANDARD OF OBJECTIVITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>HOW CPCC WORKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>TRAINING &amp; CPCC RETREAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2018 CPCC REPORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

This report reflects the work of the CPCC during the 2018 calendar year. Included is the number of complaints received, the findings and the disposition of complaints investigated. In this report, CPCC refers to the work of the overall body, including staff and Commissioners. Commission refers to the work of those appointed to fulfill the duties of the charter.

The CPCC is comprised of eleven Commissioners: one representing each council district and two at-large members. Per the City Charter, Commissioners must broadly represent the racial, ethnic, religious, labor, business, age, gender, sexual orientation, and disabled members of the general public.

Commissioners are recommended by City Council members and are appointed by the Mayor. Commissioners must reside in the city of Long Beach and in the district they are appointed to represent throughout their service. At-large Commissioners can live anywhere in the city. Commissioners can serve two, two-year terms.

Commissioners provide a valuable insight into the community’s perception of, and experience with, members of the LBPD. To apply to the CPCC, visit www.longbeach.gov/mayor/action/commissions/ or contact your City Council office. Contact the Manager of the CPCC at (562) 570-6891 to learn about the specific duties and responsibilities of serving on the CPCC.

Commissioners are required to take and pass a Live Scan criminal background check before serving.

Commissioner Orientation

Before newly appointed Commissioners can review cases, they are required to complete an orientation process that consists of a thorough overview of applicable laws, CPCC policies and procedures, and LBPD policies, procedures and training bulletins. Specific orientation subjects include, but are not limited to:

- CPCC Charter, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures
- CPCC values to the community and the City of Long Beach
- CPCC and LBPD IA investigative processes
- Laws and policies about Use of Force, Laws of Arrest and Racial Profiling
- LBPD Training Bulletins
- Public Safety Officer’s Procedural Bill of Rights
- Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance
- What to expect during Public Session
- What to expect during Closed/Executive Session
- Objectivity Standards.
About the Citizen Complaint Commission

The CPCC was created by a vote of the people in 1990 to review the service provided by members of the LBPD and independently conduct investigations into allegations of police misconduct with an emphasis on excessive force, false arrest and complaints with racial or sexual overtones.

The mission of the CPCC is to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between the community and the LBPD, and to ensure that professional police services continue in Long Beach.

The CPCC is a Charter Commission and has the power to issue subpoenas related to a complaint. The CPCC is neither an advocate for the Complainant nor for police personnel. CPCC findings can result in the accused personnel being disciplined, trained or exonerated. The CPCC refers policy recommendations to the City Manager, who can forward the recommendations to the LBPD for implementation.

While the Commission does not set policy, its policy recommendations have resulted in policies being changed or clarified to best serve the community.

CPCC Meetings

CPCC meetings begin at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of every month at City Hall, 411 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA, in the City Council Chambers. Complainants are notified when their cases will be reviewed by the Commission. Community members are welcome to attend the Open Session and can address the Commission during this time. Special meetings that include subject matter presentations or changes in meeting times are posted in compliance with the Brown Act to provide notification to the community.

Our Guiding Values

ACCOUNTABILITY
INTEGRITY
RESPECT FOR ALL PEOPLE
RESPECT FOR THE LAW AND THOSE WHO SERVE
TRANSPARENCY

2018 Staff and Support Staff

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

PATRICK H. WEST
City Manager

KEVIN JACKSON
Deputy City Manager

THOMAS MODICA
Assistant City Manager

ANITRA DEMPSEY
Executive Director
562.570.6892
Anitra.Dempsey@longbeach.gov

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

JONATHAN NAGAYAMA
City Clerk Specialist

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

MONICA KILAITA
Deputy City Attorney
Commissioners are charged with and receive training to remain objective in all cases they review. Commissioners must remain open-minded and understand their role to ensure the fairest outcome in every case.

The CPCC views objectivity as decisions based on facts and without bias, not decisions solely influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice. Commissioners consider alternative viewpoints and all available evidence when deliberating cases, and are prohibited from allowing anything that happens outside the scope of the CPCC’s investigation to affect their decision-making, including media reports and information on the internet.

Commissioners are held to the highest standard of confidentiality and cannot discuss cases outside the scope of their duties. They are prohibited from conducting their own research and forming opinions about a case until they have sufficiently reviewed all evidence.

**Highest Standard of Objectivity**

**How the CPCC works**

**Filing a Complaint**

You can file a complaint if you believe that a member of the LBPD has done something wrong. Call (562) 570-6891, mail a complaint form, send an email, or file a complaint in person at the CPCC office, 411 West Ocean Boulevard, 1st Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended, but not required. Complaints can be made anonymously. Complaint forms are available in person and on-line (www.longbeach.gov/cpcc) in English, Khmer, Spanish, and Tagalog.

It is recommended that the complaint be filed soon after the incident occurs. In general, complaints can be filed directly with the CPCC within one year of the date of the incident or with the LBPD at any time. The CPCC should review all citizen complaints initiated with the LBPD.

To expedite the processing and investigation of complaints, provide as much information as possible regarding the allegations, including witness names, photos, recordings, and other physical evidence that is available.

Third party complaints will be investigated if sufficient information is available. All complaints remain on file for the statutory time period and can be considered when evaluating overall police-community relations.

**The Investigative Process**

Complaints/cases are assigned to an Investigator who reviews reports, interviews witnesses, and conducts field investigations to collect information relevant to the case. The complaint and the investigative data are submitted to Commissioners for review prior to the monthly meeting.

**CPCC Workload**

Several factors contribute to the number of complaints filed each year, including public awareness of the CPCC and its function, police conduct toward the public, media focus, and community concerns.

A complaint/case can contain one or several allegations with one or several accused officers. If there is more than one officer accused in an allegation, the total number of allegations includes finding recommendations for all accused officers. For example, if three officers are accused of excessive use of force in one incident, the CPCC renders finding recommendations on each officer.

**CPCC Executive Session, Second Open Session and Report on Commission’s Vote**

During the monthly CPCC meeting, the Commission takes a recess from Open Session and reconvenes in Executive/Closed Session to discuss the cases and to recommend findings on each allegation. The Commission then reconvenes in Open Session to report their vote on each allegation without violating confidentiality requirements. Because each complaint is a personnel matter, the public is not allowed to attend the Executive/Closed Session.

The Commission’s finding recommendations are submitted to the City Manager, who reviews both the Commission and LBPD findings. The City Manager provides the final disposition to the Complainant in writing.
The City Charter requires that complaints against members of the LBPD be also investigated by the CPCC. Complaints can be filed in person or by phone, email, complaint form or letter. Complaint forms are available in English, Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog.

The CPCC and the LBPD notify each other of new cases, generally within ten days of receiving the complaint. A CPCC Investigator is assigned to the case. The Complainant receives a letter with the case number and contact information for the assigned CPCC Investigator.

Subpoenas are issued for relevant documents. The CPCC Investigator reviews reports, video, audio, interviews witnesses, collects any other relevant documentation and conducts field investigations to collect information relevant to the allegations. A brief is prepared for the Commissioners, or the case is recommended to be closed with NFA.

Commissioners review the brief and render findings recommendations on allegations in Closed Session. The City Manager reviews both the CPCC recommendations and Internal Affairs findings, and provides the final disposition to the complainant in writing. The City Manager can decide to forward the Commission’s recommendations to the Police Chief for implementation. The Complainant is notified of the City Manager’s findings by mail.

Case is reviewed by Commissioners and finding recommendations are rendered. City Manager reviews Commissioners recommended findings and Internal Affairs findings and a final disposition is made. Finding letter is sent to the complainant and officer(s) notifying them of the final finding(s).
Annual Training

The CPCC has an Annual Training, usually held at the Long Beach Police Academy, to provide ongoing training on the priorities set by the City Charter: complaints regarding excessive force and false arrest, and complaints with racial or sexual overtones. The 2018 training session was focused on specific matters such as laws of arrest, biased based policing, patrol operations, training & force options and officer involved shooting investigations. During these trainings Commissioners ask questions and apply the information to cases they review.

Ongoing training occurs in Open Session as needed, with topics such as bias-based policing and use of force.

Commissioners received the following presentations and/or trainings:

CLOSED SESSION PROCEDURES

PRESENTATION ON THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

Staff Training

The CPCC is a member of the Association of Workplace Investigators and the National Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Throughout the year, staff receives certified training to meet the standards of basic investigations. To ensure compliance with the City Charter, foundational training topics include, but are not limited to Laws of Arrest, Public Safety Officer’s Procedural Bill of Rights, Racial Profiling and Use of Force/Force Options.

During this reporting period, staff received training in the following areas:

HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS (HSI)

CITIZEN’S ACADEMY

I-SIGHT, AN ONLINE RESOURCE FOR INVESTIGATORS

5 Benefits of Using Reciprocity in Investigation Interviews

CPCC Retreat

With the CPCC charter and all applicable laws as the foundation, Commissioners and staff had its second retreat to learn more about how the CPCC staff works, to learn more about each other, and to engage the community in 2018. The retreat included a training on making credibility determinations, community credibility, commission credibility and gang injunctions.

Case and Allegations Summary

196 CASES OPENED
638 INSTANCES OF MISCONDUCT WERE ALLEGED
277 OFFICERS HAD AT LEAST ONE ALLEGATION OF MISCONDUCT
22% HAD MORE THAN ONE ALLEGATION OF MISCONDUCT
171 CASES INVESTIGATED AND CLOSED
75 CASES CONTAINING 220 ALLEGATIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION
96 CASES CONTAINING 211 ALLEGATIONS WERE NFA’S

Race / Ethnicity and Gender

Identifying one’s race/ethnicity and gender are optional when filing a complaint. Because some cases have more than one complainant, the total number of people listed may differ from the total number of cases.

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Allegation Breakdown for Cases Opened

1. Unbecoming Conduct – 260
2. Use of Force – 129
3. Improper Search – 39
4. Improper Arrest – 33
5. Bias Based Policing – 25
6. Failure to Take Action – 19
7. Failure to Investigate – 19
8. Failure to Take Report – 16
9. Harassment – 16
10. Failure to Care for Property – 15
11. Misappropriation of Property – 12
12. Profanity – 12
13. Dishonesty – 10
14. Misuse of Authority – 8
15. Improper Detention – 7
16. Personal Search – 5
17. Sexual Misconduct – 4
18. Vehicle Search – 3
19. Racial Profiling – 1
20. Racial Remark – 1
21. Racial Bias – 1
22. Improper Entry – 1
23. Failure to Book Evidence – 1
24. Residence Search – 1

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19. Racial Profiling – 1
20. Racial Remark – 1
21. Racial Bias – 1
22. Improper Entry – 1
23. Failure to Book Evidence – 1
24. Residence Search – 1
Caseloads and Case Closures

The CPCC opened 196 new cases and closed 171 cases, most of which were opened in previous years.

The Commission met 11 times, and reviewed 75 cases containing 220 allegations. The Commission recommended sustained for 16 allegations and recommended “Other” for 30 allegations.

A total of 96 cases were closed with a disposition of No Further Action (NFA) containing 211 allegations due to insufficient evidence, lack of witness cooperation, or staff’s recommendation.

Allegation Totals Presented to Commission By Type

1. Unbecoming Conduct – 67
2. Use of Force – 52
3. Bias Based Policing – 22
4. Dishonesty – 10
5. Failure to Take Action – 9
6. Improper Search – 8
7. Harassment – 8
8. Failure to Investigate – 7
9. Misuse of Authority – 7
10. Gender Bias – 6
11. Improper Arrest – 5
12. Sexual Misconduct – 4
13. Personal Search – 4
14. Profanity – 4
15. Improper Detention – 2
16. Failure to Take Report – 1
17. Vehicle Search – 1
18. Residence Search – 1
19. Intimidation – 1
20. Failure To Care For Property – 1

NFA Allegation Totals By Type

1. Unbecoming Conduct – 91
2. Use of Force – 39
3. Failure to Investigate – 15
4. Failure to Take Action – 9
5. Bias Based Policing – 8
6. Improper Arrest – 7
7. Misappropriation of Property – 7
8. Failure to Take Report – 6
9. Improper Remark – 6
10. Improper Search – 5
11. Failure To Care For Property – 4
12. Harrassment – 3
13. Dishonesty – 3
14. Profanity – 2
15. Improper Entry – 2
16. Improper Detention – 1
17. Intimidation – 1
18. Personal Search – 1
19. Sexual Misconduct – 1

Commission Finding Recommendations

1. Sustained – 16
2. Other – 30
3. Exonerated – 42
4. Unfounded – 88
5. Receive and File – 1
6. Not Sustained – 43

Sustained Commission Allocations

1. Unbecoming Conduct
2. Failure to Investigate
3. Failure to Take Report
4. Improper Arrest
5. Improper Search
6. Failure to Care for Property

“Other” Commission Allocations

1. Unbecoming Conduct
2. Use of Force
3. Improper Detention

City Manager Findings

1. Sustained – 2
2. Other – 16
3. Exonerated – 44
4. Unfounded – 90
5. Receive and File – 10
6. Not Sustained – 48

Sustained City Manager Allocations

1. Failure to Investigate

“Other” City Manager Allocations

1. Unbecoming Conduct
2. Use of Force
3. Failure to Take Action
4. Improper Search
5. Improper Detention
6. Failure to Take Report
7. Failure to Care for Property
The CPCC refers LBPD policy recommendations to the City Manager. During this reporting period, the Commission requested that the City Manager forward the following policy recommendations to the LBPD:

1. The Commission request clarification on what happens after an officer searches a car. They also recommended that the LBPD consider a policy regarding completing an inventory sheet, even if car is not towed.

2. The Commission recommended that the LBPD review and update policy regarding accepting electronic proof of insurance. The Commission believes this should not be the Officer’s discretion.

3. The Commission requested that the LBPD review and update/create policy to inform auto records of vehicles towed to our facility so owners calling can be informed immediately as to the whereabouts of their vehicles.

4. The Commission requested LBPD policies and procedures concerning the handling of property of juveniles who are arrested.

5. The Commission requested a general overview regarding TAP cards and LBPD’s enforcement on the Metro rail due to the Commission seeing an increase in the complaints there.

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5. The Commission requested a general overview regarding TAP cards and LBPD’s enforcement on the Metro rail due to the Commission seeing an increase in the complaints there.

The CPCC refers LBPD policy recommendations to the City Manager. During this reporting period, the Commission requested that the City Manager forward the following policy recommendations to the LBPD:

The Commission made the following responses as a result of some of the policy recommendations made by the Commission in 2018:

The Commission requested LBPD policies and procedures concerning the handling of property of juveniles who are arrested.

LBPD RESPONSE:
The following information was learned. This information was obtained via research of the Long Beach Police Department Manual, Training Bulletins, Jail Standard Operating Procedures Manual and discussions with current jail supervisors.

- There is no specific mention in any department document regarding the practice/procedure of handling the property of juveniles that have been arrested.

- The existing practice of jailers that handle the booking of arrested juveniles is as follows:

  Juveniles being booked at the Juvenile Booking facility have all property removed from them.

  All property removed is recorded by the arresting officer on the juvenile’s booking sheet.

  All property on the booking sheet is itemized and recorded in Tiburon and appears on the Los Angeles County booking face sheet, including bulk items like backpacks and skateboards.

  Any item classified as evidence is taken and booked into evidence under regular departmental protocols.

Arrested juveniles are either transferred to Los Padrinos or released to the custody of their parents and/or legal guardians after completing booking. In all releases, the property of the arrested juvenile goes with the juvenile. Except for items determined to be evidence, no items are retained by Police Department personnel.

The Commission requested a general overview regarding TAP cards and LBPD’s enforcement on the Metro rail due to the Commission seeing an increase in the complaints there.

LBPD RESPONSE:
The Long Beach Police Department and the City of Long Beach entered a contract with L.A. Metro to provide law enforcement services on the Metro Blue Line within the City of Long Beach beginning on July 1, 2017. The Police Department provides services to support Metro’s day to day operations as a supplement to Metro Transit Security Officers and Metro contracted civilian security services. Under the contract, the Long Beach Police Department provides law enforcement services for eight Blue Line Stations and adjacent Metro properties while collaborating on the following priorities:

- Decrease response times to emergency, priority and routine calls for service

- Increase law enforcement and security visibility across the transit system

- Deter crime - to include vandalism and graffiti

- Reduce vulnerability to terrorism
• Enforce Metro’s Customer Code of Conduct, pertaining to criminal violations

• Reduce fare evasion

The Metro Transportation Detail has an outstanding relationship with the Metro Systems Security & Law Enforcement Division and our Metro Transportation Detail officers enjoy an equally successful relationship with the Metro Fare Compliance Officers. Our working relationship with the Fare Compliance Officers is a mutually beneficial relationship. The Fare Compliance Officers are primary in the enforcement of fare compliance and our officers are secondary as a back-up to their enforcement efforts. Together, we have been able to significantly reduce crime on the platforms and trains within Long Beach. This relationship works well as our officers can rely on both the California Penal Code and other various code violations as well as the Metro Customer Code of Conduct.

In addition to the response above, the LBPD gave details on Metro TAP cards, ticketing on the Blue Line platforms and trains, new Blue Line closure and how it works when Blue Line trains are operating.

APPENDIX A

Citizen Police Complaint Commission Vernacular

ALLEGATION: A claim or assertion that an LBPD employee has done something illegal or wrong.

BRIEF: The compilation of information to a complaint, including statements, photos, reports and other evidence.

CASE: A complaint requiring investigation or action.

CLOSED OR EXECUTIVE SESSION: As part of a regular or special meeting, the restricted and/or confidential deliberation on allegations of misconduct concerning LBPD employees.

COMPLAINT: An allegation against an LBPD employee.

COMPLAINANT: Person who files a complaint.

COMMISSION: The Long Beach community members appointed to serve on the CPCC.

CPCC: Commissioners and staff.

DISPOSITION: The final finding for a case.

FINDINGS: The determination of each allegation.

OPEN OR PUBLIC SESSION: Part of a regular or special meeting where the Commission conducts business that is not restricted from being openly discussed.
Definitions for Findings and Dispositions

**SUSTAINED:** The investigation indicates the alleged act more likely than not occurred and constitutes misconduct
- This finding recommends discipline for the accused
- Discipline can be a letter of reprimand, suspension, demotion or termination

**OTHER:** The alleged act, although more likely than not occurred, was not misconduct and could be most appropriately handled by training or other means.

**EXONERATED:** The investigation indicates the alleged act did occur, but the action(s) taken were lawful, proper and justified.

**UNFOUNDED:** The investigation indicates the alleged act did not occur. Examples: There is no information or evidence that supports the allegation; there is evidence that the alleged act did not occur; or, the individual named in the complaint was not involved.

**RECEIVE AND FILE:** The information received is submitted past the statute of limitations for disciplinary actions; or, the information received does not, on its face, establish misconduct. A case may be reopened if further information or evidence is submitted within the statute of limitations period.

**NOT SUSTAINED:** The investigation fails to disclose sufficient evidence to prove the alleged act.

**REINVESTIGATE:** When new information comes to the attention of the Commission or when the Commission requests clarification or additional information that could reasonably be obtained.

**NO FURTHER ACTION (NFA):** The disposition for cases closed, as recommended by the Manager of the CPCC, according to the criteria provided by the Commission. NFA complaints can be re-evaluated or appealed to the full Commission if new information related to the original concern is found within one year of the complaint. Like all complaints, NFA cases remain on file for the statutory period and may be considered when evaluating overall community/police relations.

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**APPENDIX C**

**Commissioners and Attendance Records**

Because the 2018 Annual Report covers January through December, some Commission seats show two representatives, beginning with the Commissioner who served first in that seat.

The attendance status reflects roll call and each vote. If a Commissioner arrives late or leaves early, he/she might be absent for one roll call or vote, but not for the other roll call or for the entire meeting.

**Attendance Record – January 2018 – June 2018**

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month, beginning at 5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90802

**CHAIR:** Miles Nevin

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**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

CITIZEN POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSION
Commissioners and Attendance Records

Because the 2018 Annual Report covers January through December, some Commission seats show two representatives, beginning with the Commissioner who served first in that seat.

The attendance status reflects roll call and each vote. If a Commissioner arrives late or leaves early, he/she might be absent for one roll call or vote, but not for the other roll call or for the entire meeting.

Attendance Record – July 2018 – December 2018
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month, beginning at 5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90802
CHAIR: Suley Saro

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W RESIGNED  D DARK  X NO MEETING/ NO QUORUM  T TERMED OUT

CPCC Complaint Forms
Commissioner Elect Orientation Checklist

☐ Agreement to Standards of Conduct
☐ Courier Service Form
☐ Ride Along with LBPD
☐ Media Policy
☐ Policy Regarding Witnessing Possible Police Misconduct

☐ CPCC Charter
☐ By-Laws
☐ Policies & Procedures
☐ Public Safety Officer’s Bill of Rights
☐ Parliamentary Procedures at a Glance
☐ Allegation Codes
☐ Findings
☐ Phonetic and Alpha Codes

☐ CPCC values to the community and the City of Long Beach
☐ CPCC and IA investigative processes
☐ What to expect during Public Session
☐ What to expect during Executive Session
☐ Annual training and Special Meetings

After completing orientation, Commissioners sign and acknowledge that I have completed the Citizen Police Complaint Commission orientation.

SIGN NAME

DATE

APPENDIX E

City Manager Report

Per the City Charter, the CPCC investigates allegations of police misconduct and submits its finding recommendations to the City Manager, who has the final authority on these findings. At the Commission’s request, a report of the City Manager’s findings has been made available to the Commission and to the public, when possible. The report includes all Commission finding recommendations, including Sustained and Other, as well as any recommendations made after discussing a case on the agenda. Because all investigations are personnel matters, information that might connect the finding with a specific accused Officer is left off the report.