

Citizen Police Complaint Commission:

*REMAINING OBJECTIVE IN APPROACHING
CASES OF ALLEGED POLICE MISCONDUCT*

CPCCC's Goals:

- ❖ To promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between the community and the Long Beach Police Department
- ❖ To assist in ensuring the high standard of professionalism in police services continues in the City of Long Beach



Your Role As A Commissioner

- Understand the seriousness and importance of serving on the CPCC
- Ensure the most fair outcome

➤ A **fair outcome** depends on each Commissioner's **honesty** and **objectivity**

Objectivity

- The state of being objective
 - **Objective:** not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice; based on facts; unbiased.*
- Consider alternative viewpoints and all evidence when approaching your difficult deliberations
 - **“Open-mindedness”** is of the utmost importance when evaluating cases
 - **“Closed-mindedness”** will hinder thoughtful and just deliberations by assuming relevant facts and viewpoints

Recommended Guidelines To Remaining Objective:

1. Do not allow anything that happens outside the scope of the CPCC's investigation to affect your decision
 - This includes what you may hear or see in the media or on the Internet, whether related to your cases or those involving other officers and jurisdictions
 - A Commissioner's **bias, prejudice, or sympathy, or public opinion or scrutiny**, must not influence the decision/outcome of these cases
 - Set aside emotions and approach situation with a clear mind

2. Do not **discuss** complaints, investigations, deliberations, or involved parties with anyone, including but not limited to family, friends, the media, and co-workers

- If you are approached by these individuals to discuss your cases, respectfully decline to do so

3. Do not **form or state an opinion** until you have sufficiently reviewed all evidence and discussed it thoroughly with your fellow commissioners during deliberations

4. Do not conduct your own research or investigate the allegations, or ask anyone to assist you; focus solely on the evidence before you

CPCC Deliberations

- ❑ Stating the purpose of a deliberation at the beginning will allow the CPCC's conversation to remain on track
- ❑ Deliberations should focus on immediate facts
- ❑ Drifting away from the purpose of the deliberation may cause various emotions to arise
- ❑ Making clear and meaningful points decreases the likelihood of emotional responses/reactions
- ❑ Commissioners should listen to and weigh every point made
- ❑ Remaining objective is necessary for a successful and thoughtful deliberation, and, ultimately, a just outcome

“Open-mindedness is conforming one’s beliefs based on evidence and reality, not the other way around.”