

Community Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 28, 2022

A. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:18 p.m., the virtual zoom meeting of the Community Relations Commission convened. Commissioners Adam Lopez, Stallion, Durias and Gonzalez were present. Commissioners Paniagua and Tiffany Lopez were absent. Chair Adam Lopez presided and called the meeting to order. Staff members present were Jason Benites, Police Chief; Jason Zaragoza, Deputy City Attorney and Luly Lopez, Acting Secretary.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one speaker Sofia who thanked the Commissioners for their dedication and time.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

ACTION: It was moved by Vice Chair Stallion, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, to approve the recommended action as presented.

VOTE: Commissioners Stallion, Durias, Gonzalez and Lopez.

D. COMMISSIONER NEW BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Military Equipment Funding, Use, and Acquisition (AB 581).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Community Relations Commission receive and file.

DISCUSSION: Police Chief Benites stated that over the past several decades, many law enforcement agencies (LEAs) across the United States acquired a variety of military surplus equipment from the federal government and incorporated their use into law enforcement operations. Generally speaking, the equipment furnished to LEA's was intended to be necessary or beneficial to operations, intended to improve the safety of officers as well as the public, and helped agencies acquire such equipment in the face of limited budgets. In previous years, the Oxnard Police Department accepted a limited variety of items, including M17 gas masks, helmets, older generation rifles, and rifle optics. These items have since been eliminated from the department's inventory.

Over the course of the past several years, criticism and debate has spread across the nation concerning the perception of policing in America becoming "militarized". Assembly Bill 481 (AB 481) was authored by California Assemblymember David Chiu (D- San Francisco) to address and regulate the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment by LEA's.

AB 481 mandates LEA's to obtain approval from their applicable governing bodies, via adoption of a "military equipment" use policy by ordinance prior to the LEA funding,

acquisition, or using such equipment. Some notable categories deemed by AB 481 to be "military equipment" include, but are not limited to: unmanned vehicles (aerial or ground), armored rescue vehicles, command and control vehicles, pepper ball munitions, less lethal shotguns "less lethal" projectile launchers, and light-sound diversionary devices (often referred to as "flashbangs").

The Oxnard Police Department seeks City Council adoption of a proposed ordinance "Military Equipment Use Policy" in order to allow the Oxnard Police Department to use the equipment specified therein. A public hearing is scheduled for April 5th.

2. SUBJECT: Review of Powers and Duties.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Community Relations Commission receive a verbal update from Deputy City Attorney Zaragoza.

DISCUSSION: Deputy City Attorney Zaragoza discussed the powers and duties as defined in Section 2-56 of the City Code and that guest speakers should relate to section A through K.

E. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. SUBJECT: Consideration of Guest Speakers for the CRC 2022 Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission provide staff with possible guest speakers.

F. REPORT OF COMMISSION SECRETARY

DISCUSSION: The Acting Secretary shared with the Commission upcoming events.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Youth Subcommittee: Commissioner Durias participated in a virtual Family Reading Night to celebrate Black History Month.sponsored by the Oxnard School District.

Fair Housing Subcommittee: No report.

Public Safety Subcommittee: No report.

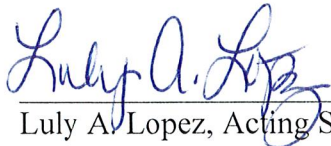
Multicultural Festival Subcommittee: Chair Adam Lopez mentioned that the City approved the festival for part of the "Welcome Back Festivals" to the City of Oxnard. More information will follow.

H. COMMISSIONERS NON-SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

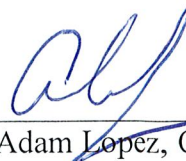
Commissioner Gonzalez invited everyone to take a look at the Truth Act to invite as a future guest speaker. Commissioner Durias attend this past weekend the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Exhibition as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the Juneteenth Celebration of Ventura County- An American Journey (Exhibit and Panel Discussion, Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and a flyer will be shared with everyone. Chair Adam Lopez shared information about the upcoming Immigration Forum scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>.

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the agenda, and without objection, Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Luly A. Lopez, Acting Secretary



Adam Lopez, Chair