



# Oakland Police Commission — Special Community Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 11, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

**Location:** Fremont High School, 4610 Foothill Blvd, Oakland

**42 Community Members Present**

## Members Present

- Ricardo Garcia-Acosta, Chair
- Shawana Booker, Vice Chair
- Shane Williams, Commissioner
- Samuel Dawit, Commissioner
- Angela Jackson-Castain, Commissioner
- Wilson Riles, Commissioner
- Omar Farmer, Alternate Commissioner

## Staff Present

- Mykah Montgomery, Chief of Staff
- Zurvohn Maloof, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General
- Antonio Lawson, Interim Executive Director, Community Police Review Agency
- Lisa Ausmus, Deputy Chief, OPD Bureau of Risk Management
- Mario Fajardo, Chief of Staff, Oakland Police Department
- Floyd Mitchell, Chief of Police, Oakland Police Department (participated in breakout session)

## **I. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, Determination of Quorum**

Chair Ricardo Garcia-Acosta called the initial roll at approximately 5:50 PM for purposes of adjourning to Closed Session.

Vice Chair Booker, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Dawit, Commissioner Jackson-Castain, Commissioner Riles, and Alternate Commissioner Farmer were present.

A quorum was established.

The Commission then adjourned to Closed Session.

## **II. Closed Session (approximately 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM)**

The Commission adjourned to Closed Session to discuss existing litigation matters and a personnel discipline matter pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b).

## **III. Redetermination of Quorum and Announcements**

Chair Garcia-Acosta reconvened the open session at 6:48 PM and conducted roll call.

Vice Chair Booker, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Dawit, Commissioner Jackson-Castain, Commissioner Riles, and Alternate Commissioner Farmer were present.

A quorum was re-established.

Chair Garcia-Acosta recognized community and staff partners, including Fremont High School leadership and Chief of Staff Montgomery, while staff reviewed meeting procedures and public participation guidelines for the community roundtable.

## **IV. Open Forum Part 1 (2 minutes per speaker, 15 minutes total)**

**Public Comment: Jose Dorado (e-comment), Ann Janks, Jordan Payseno, Brad Morgan, Cherisse Gash, Millie Cleveland, Mariano Contreras, Khantans Jackson, Kai Watanabe, Brenda Grisham, Lin An, Kimberly Hypolite, Rickie Cleete, Ka Madrid, David Russo (e-comment)**

Public comment reflected a wide range of views on pursuit policy changes, constitutional policing, community safety, OPD accountability, homicide investigations, ICE-related concerns, and priorities for the police chief selection process.

## Follow-Up Items / Comments

- Public speakers requested greater clarity regarding OPD's response to violent neighborhood activity, the Commission's role in constitutional policing oversight, and review of an alleged homicide investigation failure.

## V. Community Roundtable — Part One: High-Level Presentations

### Staff Report / Presentation

**Chief of Staff Montgomery** explained the community roundtable structure, which included introductory presentations followed by breakout discussions on three focused topic areas.

**Chair Garcia-Acosta** provided an overview of the Police Commission's civilian oversight role, emphasizing its responsibilities related to OPD policy, discipline, and oversight of CPRA and OIG, as well as its importance in sustaining accountability beyond the NSA.

**Inspector General Maloof** outlined the OIG's voter-approved oversight role, highlighting its responsibilities for auditing, policy review, NSA compliance monitoring, public reporting, and promoting accountability and continuous improvement within OPD.

**Interim Executive Director Lawson** described CPRA's role in independently investigating police misconduct complaints, supporting the Commission's disciplinary process, and developing new mediation and investigative transition initiatives to strengthen civilian oversight.

**Chair Garcia-Acosta** closed the presentations by emphasizing the Commission's commitment to working collaboratively with OPD rather than in an adversarial posture, and noted the need for all oversight bodies to increase community engagement and outreach. Video: 02:27:36

### Public Comment:

No public comment was taken on this item separately; the meeting moved directly into breakout sessions.

### Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item.

## **VI. Community Roundtable — Part Two: Breakout Sessions**

### **Summary of Breakout Session Readouts**

Following approximately one hour of small-group discussions in the cafeteria using a round-robin format, facilitators reported back to the full body.

#### **NSA / Cultural Change Group** (facilitated by Alternate Commissioner Farmer)

Community members discussing NSA and cultural change emphasized the need for greater transparency, accountability, constitutional policing, officer wellness support, youth and community partnerships, stronger oversight resources, and improved treatment of impacted families.

#### **Community Expectations / Accountability Group** (facilitated by Commissioner Williams and VC Booker)

Community members emphasized the need for clearer public communication, transparency, accessible data, stronger community engagement by OPD leadership, and better-defined protocols and messaging regarding ICE-related encounters and responses.

#### **Vehicle Pursuit Policy Group** (facilitated by Commissioners Riles, Dawit, Chair Garcia-Acosta with Chief Mitchell participating)

Discussion and questions focused on pursuit policy data trends, supervisory approval requirements, OPD technology capabilities, and whether additional technology investments could reduce reliance on high-speed vehicle pursuits.

### **Action Taken**

No formal action taken.

### **Follow-Up Items / Comments**

- Community members requested that breakout session notes be compiled and published for public access.
- Multiple questions regarding pursuit-related technology (dash cameras, drones, GPS, automated license plate readers) were raised but not fully answered.
- Community members requested clearer ICE encounter protocols and public-facing guidance.

## **VII. Oakland Police Department Update**

OPD leadership presented updates on collaborative policy development, immigration enforcement protocols, and city preparedness for potential ICE-related activity, while commissioners discussed transparency, mutual aid coordination, and public concerns regarding identification and verification of federal agents.

### **Public Comment: Millie Cleveland, Mariano Contreras, Ann Janks**

Public comment focused on OPD's role and protocols during ICE-related activity, concerns about unidentified or impersonating federal agents, officer accountability and discipline, and calls for the Commission to develop clearer public guidance and policies regarding immigration enforcement encounters.

### **Follow-Up Items / Comments**

- Does OPD have a formal verification process for confirming the identity of federal agents operating within Oakland? (Commissioner Williams)
- What should members of the public do if confronted by unidentified individuals claiming federal authority? (Chair Garcia-Acosta)
- Public comment and discussion included recommendations for the Commission to develop formal OPD protocols for ICE-related encounters, consider a dedicated public meeting on immigration enforcement issues, and address concerns regarding the impact of disciplinary processes on officer decision-making.

## **VIII. Wellness in OPD Presentation: Alternate Commissioner Farmer and Vice Chair Booker**

Alternate Commissioner Farmer presented on officer wellness and community impacts, emphasizing the Commission's oversight responsibilities related to mental health, the connection between officer wellness and constitutional policing, disparities affecting East Oakland communities, and potential initiatives to strengthen OPD wellness programs and community trust.

### **Commissioner Discussion**

Chair Garcia-Acosta thanked Commissioner Farmer and noted the overlap between wellness issues and other Commission priorities including overtime, militarized equipment, and community policing.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was received on this item.

## Action Taken

No formal action taken.

Chair Garcia-Acosta indicated interest in exploring the creation of a wellness ad hoc committee and directed staff to track this as a potential future agenda item.

## Follow-Up Items / Comments

- The Commission will explore creating a wellness-focused ad hoc committee based on Commissioner Farmer's proposals.
- Commissioner Farmer's specific proposals (KPIs for wellness program, crowd management ordinance with violence interrupters, full development of OPD Professional Development Wellness Unit) require further discussion and potential action at future meetings.

## IX. Ad Hoc Committee Update

The Commission provided a brief update on its active ad hoc committees, encouraged public participation in committee meetings, and noted that full ad hoc reporting would resume during regular Commission meetings.

## Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item.

## X. Upcoming/Future Agenda Items

Chief of Staff Montgomery outlined upcoming agenda items: Video: 04:27:21

- **September 25, 2025:** Commission vote on OPD's vehicle pursuit policy; CPRA mediation program amendments vote.
- **October 9, 2025 (tentative):** Militarized equipment report and Commission vote on recommendations.
- **October 23, 2025:** Oakland City Attorney's Office semiannual report.

Chair Garcia-Acosta noted the Commission's interest in exploring a wellness ad hoc committee based on Commissioner Farmer's presentation. Video: 04:26:32 No public comment was received.

## Action Taken

No formal action taken.

## **XI. Open Forum Part 2 (2 minutes per speaker, 15 minutes total)**

No speaker cards were submitted. No public comment was received.

## **XII. Re-adjourn to Closed Session**

The Commission did not re-adjourn to Closed Session.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Chair Garcia-Acosta adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:00 PM, thanking the community, Chief Mitchell and OPD staff, Director Lawson, Inspector General Maloof, and Principal Baez for hosting.