



**CITY OF OAKLAND
POLICE COMMISSION SELECTION PANEL
(SPECIAL MEETING)
FINAL Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
6:00 PM**

Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 2
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA

Selection Panel Members: Chair Rickisha Herron (District 6), Vice Chair Gay Plair Cobb (At Large), Vacant (Mayor), Paula White (District 1), David Kakishiba (District 2), Charlie Eddy (District 3), Vacant (District 4), Monique Rivera (District 5) and Bill Thomasson (District 7).

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

In attendance: Chair Rickisha Herron, Vice Chair Cobb, Panelists Kakishiba, Eddy, Rivera. Absent:

2. Public Comment

All speakers will be allotted a maximum of two minutes unless the Chairperson allocates additional time.

- Anne Janks
- Mary Vail
- Millie Cleveland
- Carol Draizen
- Lorelei Bosserman (on Zoom)

ACTION ITEMS

3. Review and approve meeting minutes for the following dates:

- April 16, 2025

Vice Chair Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Panelist Charlie Eddy.

No discussion.

The minutes were approved. Panelist Rivera abstained.

4. The Selection Panel will review and discuss the 2025 Police Commission Selection Panel Applicants

The ad-hoc committee will provide an update and recommendation on Panelist applications. Panel will take possible action on reopening the application process and accept applications on an ongoing basis until the Mayoral and District 4 seats are filled.

Staff provided an update and shared that no additional applications were received for the Police Commission Selection. The application process will remain open.

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5. Review and Discuss Candidate Interview Questions

- The Panel will review, discuss and take possible action on interview questions for Police Commission applicants, including specific questions for incumbents.

Chair Herron introduced this item and requested that the Panel review the questions. She shared that these are newly revised incumbent questions. The incumbent and new applicant questions were revised by an ad hoc committee consisting of Chair Herron and Panelist Kakishiba and Eddy. Chair Herron read the incumbent questions and the Panel discussed them. She shared that these are the core questions and additional questions can be added during the interviews.

Panelist Rivera moved to accept the questions without changes. Second by Vice Chair Cobb. Motion passed unanimously.

6. The Selection Panel will conduct Police Commission applicant interviews, including Opening Statements and Questions from the Panel

The Selection Panel will interview applicants, discuss and take possible action on its process for appointing Police Commissioners during the 2024 nomination process, including which candidates will advance to the next phase in the interview process. The Selection Panel may take action on the process to conduct reference checks and could also set or amend its future meeting schedule.

- The Panel will interview the following candidates: Ricardo Garcia Acosta, Omar Farmer and Daniel Ettlinger.

Applications for all candidates interviewed during this meeting were included in the agenda packet. Each candidate was required to provide an opening statement about their experience and background. Following the opening statements, Panelists took turns asking questions from the applicant evaluation tool and incumbent questions that were included in the agenda packet. The Panel interviewed the candidates as listed on the agenda.

The current Chair of the Police Commission Ricardo Garcia Acosta was interviewed first. He provided an overview of his work. He previously served as an Alternate Police Commissioner.

Commissioner Omar Farmer was the next candidate to be interviewed by the Panel. He shared his volunteer experience on the Police Commission. Commissioner Farmer has served on ad hoc committees and provided other support to the Commission as needed.

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Panelist Rivera requested the candidates discuss their community engagement experience. Vice Chair Cobb asked questions about the NSA and the Commissions approach to addressing tasks 2, 5 and 45.

Following Commissioner Farmer's interview, the Panel took a 15 minute recess.

Daniel Ettlinger was the final candidate to be interviewed by the Selection Panel during this meeting. Mr. Ettlinger currently serves as chair of the Community Policing Advisory Board.

Panelist Rivera moved to reappoint Mr. Farmer to the police commission. Vice Chair Cobb seconded the motion and added that Mr. Farmer would be reappointed as an alternate commissioner. Panelist Rivera accepted the friendly amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Panelist Eddy asked a question about additional applicants. Staff provided an update to the Panel on other applications submitted to the Panel as included in the agenda packet. Chair Herron confirmed that the Panel is not required to interview applicants to the Panel. This has been a panel practice in the past. The Panel could also establish a reserve pool.

Vice Chair Cobb confirmed that the term is a full 3 year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Cobb made a motion to reappoint Ricardo Garcia Acosta for a full 3 year term on the Police Commission. Second by Panelist Eddy. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Cobb shared that Daniel Ettlinger could be considered for the reserve pool. Panelist Rivera requested that Mr. Ettlinger shared his interest to serve on the reserve pool. Mr. Ettlinger accepted the invitation to serve on the reserve pool. Two applicants are required to establish a reserve pool.

7. The Selection Panel will review and discuss Police Commission applicants that submitted supplemental questions following the deadline.

The Panel will discuss and take possible action on interviewing the candidates in the next round.

There were applicants that submitted supplemental questions to their applications. These applicants did not submit completed applications by the Panel's, April 25 deadline and

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the Panel provided an extension. The Chair indicated that candidates could be invited back to interview for the reserve pool. The Panel did not take further action on this item.

8. Agenda Building

The Panel will discuss their next meeting agenda.

9. Open Forum

- Millie Cleveland
- Lorelei Bosserman (via Zoom)

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.