

CITIZEN REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT -
STRUCTURE OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW DIVISION

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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City Council Testimony Citizen Review Committee Report on the Structure of the Independent Police Review Division July 14, 2010

The League would like to thank the Citizen Review Committee's (CRC) Structure Review Workgroup for the time and attention it devoted to considering the findings and recommendations from both Eileen Luna-Firebaugh's Independent Police Review Division Performance Review and those submitted by the full CRC and community members. The League supports nearly all of the CRC's recommendations and is encouraged by the fact that the Police Oversight Stakeholder Committee is considering many of them.

Our oversight system is complicated and the learning curve is steep for new CRC members. Increasing the term length from two years to three will reduce the number of inexperienced members on the committee at any one time. In addition to adopting that CRC-recommended change, we believe council also should increase the committee size by two, to a total of 11 members. In addition to the time spent reading case files in preparation for appeal hearings, almost all CRC members serve on at least two work groups that meet monthly and focus on specific issues. Having more members to carry the load will enhance CRC's ability to make progress on accomplishing its goals for an improved oversight system and Police Bureau.

Over the years, the CRC has had a number of resignations, leaving the committee short handed until the next recruitment process is completed. For this reason, we recommend that two reserve members be selected during that process. Reserve members could complete background checks and training and be ready to step in if someone finds it necessary to resign.

CRC recommendations outlined in this report the League thinks are especially important to adopt include:

- Change the powers and duties of the CRC so it can make policy recommendations directly to the Police Bureau.
- Dedicate funds for the CRC to use at its discretion for the purpose of carrying out its mission.
- Assign a dedicated staff member to assist the full CRC and its work groups.
- Change the standard of review in appeal hearings from "reasonable person standard" to "preponderance of the evidence" standard.
- Return possible misconduct case findings to unfounded, insufficient evidence, exonerated, and sustained. Add policy failure, training failure, and supervisory failure.

"To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government."