

July 11, 2001

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



# Agenda

## CITIZEN'S POLICE INCIDENT REVIEW BOARD

Wednesday, July 11, 2001  
7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.  
Santa Fe Police Department  
Conference Room  
2515 Camino Entrada

I. ROLL CALL

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DATE 7.6.01 TIME 4:00

III. APPROVAL OF January 30, 2001 minutes

SERVED BY Harvey Van Suple

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

- A. Introduction of new District 2 board member, Gil Sanchez
- B. Discuss newspaper articles regarding Albuquerque POC (Police Oversight Committee) Please read enclosed articles prior to meeting

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discuss direction of Board
- B. Familiarization of Citizen's Police Incident Review Board ordinance
- C. Discuss planning a meeting with community organizations, neighborhood associations and youth groups
- D. Discuss ground rules, speakers, lists and invitations

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

VIII. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD

IX. MATTERS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT LIAISON NIGEL BRIDGER

X. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Interpreter for the hearing impaired is available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice.

**SUMMARY INDEX OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA FE  
CITIZEN'S POLICE INCIDENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
July 11, 2001**

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<b>Approval of Minutes</b> January 30, 2001	Deferred	2
<b>New Business</b>		
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<b>Executive Session</b>	None	
<b>Matters from the Floor</b>	None	
<b>Matters from the Board</b>	None	
<b>Matters from Police Dept.</b> Liaison Lt. Bridger	None	
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<b>Adjourn</b>		8

**MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA FE  
CITIZEN'S POLICE INCIDENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING**

**July 11, 2001**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Citizen's Police Incident Review Board was called to order by Chair Harry van Sickle at approximately 7 p.m. on this date at the Santa Fe Police Department building, 2515 Camino Entrada, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present**

Ms. Agnes Moses  
Mr. Fernando Rivera  
Mr. Gil Sanchez  
Mr. Harry van Sickle, Chair

**Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Lt. Nigel Bridger, Police Department Liaison

Following roll call, Chair van Sickle reminded members the Board currently has one at-large position available; he asked members to notify him of anyone interested in serving.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By consensus, members approved the agenda as printed.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members agreed to defer the approval of the January 30, 2001 minutes until the next Board meeting (in October) because those minutes had not been included in the recent packet for the current meeting.

Chair van Sickle said he would telephone members in September to work out a mutually agreeable date for the October meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Introduction of new District 2 member, Mr. Gil Sanchez**

Chair van Sickle introduced Mr. Sanchez.

Giving some background on his experience, Mr. Sanchez said he works for a pharmaceutical company, and has a background in pharmacology. Previously, he stated, he worked for Baxter Health Care Corporation and Fisher Scientific, where he worked with forensics. Mr. Sanchez said he has also served as a legal administrator for the New Mexico National Guard, with approximately one year left for his twenty-year duty, and has the Judge/Advocate experience of working for the prosecution and defense. Mr. Sanchez said he has been a member of the community all of his life, and was graduated from the College of Santa Fe.

Mr. Sanchez said due to his scientific background and personal leanings, he believes he can bring an objective, relatively neutral point of view to the Board.

Mr. van Sickle said some of the Board members had to take additional training to hold their positions. He said he had sent Mr. Sanchez's resume to the City Attorney's office asking if Mr. Sanchez needed any similar training, but had not heard back yet. He said he thought Mr. Sanchez's experience was probably sufficient. Mr. Rivera agreed Mr. Sanchez's experience was a big plus.

Mr. Sanchez said he was looking forward to doing ride-alongs with the police.

Lt. Bridger said he could arrange the ride-alongs.

Chair van Sickle said all of the Board members had done the Fire Arms Training Simulator (FATS) and suggested Mr. Sanchez would find that useful as well.

Mr. Sanchez, adding to his earlier comments on his experience, said he also worked with the New Mexico National Guard's drug enforcement program and rode along with state police undercover in Albuquerque.

Lt. Bridger told the Board that the Citizen's Academy, a week-long mini academy that allows citizens to see how police operate and ride along with them, was now in operation.

**B. Discuss newspaper articles regarding Albuquerque Police Oversight Committee**

Chair van Sickle said from time to time, people ask the committee what it is doing, and it may not seem to be a lot. However, he said, there has not been much to respond to. He noted that the committee does have complaint forms posted at libraries and at the Police Department's IA office and at City Hall.

Mr. Rivera said Board members can also keep forms to give to people who might come to them with complaints. Chair van Sickle reminded Board members they are asked not to listen to people's stories because that could bias them when the complaints come before the Board; instead, they are asked to tell people to fill out the forms.

Ms. Moses asked if the forms could be used for complaints against Correction Officers or officers in the County jail. Chair van Sickle said the forms are only for City police and Animal Control officers. He said Animal Control is under police jurisdiction, but officers are not peace officers - and are not sworn.

Chair van Sickle said the reason Animal Control was included was because that force has problems. He said, however, he felt Animal Control needed more support, training and money and perhaps, at some point, officers might need to be sworn.

Mr. Rivera noted there had been an effort to have the complaint forms cover civilian employees of the Police Department, but the City Attorney had rejected the request.

Chair van Sickle said someone had filled out a form against the Sheriff's department and he planned to pass along the complaint to the Sheriff. He said he would tell the Sheriff he knew he had no jurisdiction, but wanted the Sheriff to know a neighborhood was unhappy with treatment by the Sheriff's department.

In response to a question from Mr. Rivera, Chair van Sickle said that community's complaint would fall under the provision of the complaint form which covers "any other incident which diminishes the community's confidence."

Mr. Rivera said he personally felt it would be foolish for the Sheriff's Department not to pursue the issue.

Discussing the newspaper articles, Chair van Sickle said some people are unhappy with the way Albuquerque's Police Oversight Committee is working. Mr. Rivera said the articles contain nothing but criticism.

Chair van Sickle said people want action on issues instantly, but sometimes there is really nothing for a committee to act upon. He said some people want this committee to be on the streets doing something every day -but that people had to come to the committee if they had problems.

Chair van Sickle asked Lt. Bridger how many Internal Affairs cases were outstanding. Lt. Bridger said he had only one case so far this year, and it had been settled.

In response to a question from Mr. Sanchez, Lt. Bridger said cases can originate either from citizens or with Internal Affairs; he said in the last year and a half he had handled 14 cases, with seven of them citizen-originated.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Direction of the Board**

Chair van Sickle said the Board had been thinking of holding a meeting with community organizations and neighborhood associations.

Discussing efforts to organize a meeting, Chair van Sickle said he had been working with Mr. Gerard Martinez at the Office of Inter-Cultural Affairs to get a list of neighborhood associations who could be invited to the meeting. He said he and Mr. Rivera had contacted schools and churches about a possible meeting, and those groups would prefer a morning meeting running from approximately 10 a.m. until noon. Chair van Sickle said he'd like the Police Chief to attend the meeting as well as a representative of the City Attorney's office plus the Board. Chair van Sickle said he would like to see students take part in the meeting as well.

A discussion ensued about the purpose of the meeting. Chair van Sickle said the basic purpose of the meeting was to inform those in attendance of the Board's existence, and explain the ordinance that established the Board. Mr. Rivera said an explanation of why the ordinance was established was also necessary.

Chair van Sickle said the purpose of the meeting was not to take complaints or have those attending berate the Board, but to explain that the Board was the vehicle through which a complaint could be safely made.

Chair van Sickle said he would like to hold the meeting at the Convention Center but has been unable to secure a room in that facility.

Mr. Sanchez asked if all members of the Board agreed about creating the kind of community outreach program implied in holding the meeting.

Chair van Sickle said the Board was interested. He said he thinks the City Attorney's Office and Deputy Police Chief would agree to coming to the meeting, but neither has expressed a willingness to pay for the room.

Chair van Sickle said he thought it was important that the Police Chief or Deputy Chief plus Lt. Bridger and someone from the City Attorney's office be present at the meeting to field questions along with the Board.

In response to a query from Mr. Sanchez, Lt. Bridger said he could not give his personal view of the idea of holding a meeting and that if the Board wanted the Police Department view he would have to go to the Department and get an official response.

Mr. Rivera said he felt a Police Department presence was needed at the meeting to educate civilians about the department's view of the ordinance and department response to complaints.

Mr. Sanchez said in looking at the idea of a meeting he felt it was important to ask the question: What is the Board trying to accomplish? Does the board want to publicize its existence so citizens will know about it? He said knowing what the Board wants to accomplish will help it plan strategy. For instance, he said, an article in The New Mexican could help publicize the Board's existence. Is the public meeting, he asked, the only way to reach out to the community?

Chair van Sickle said the meeting was not the only avenue, but he has received a lot of positive feedback on the idea.

Chair van Sickle noted that the Board was created in response to the Pancho Ortega incident and some people had only a vague recollection of that. He said he wanted to remind people that the Board was in existence.

He added that the fact that there were not many incidents to deal with showed the Police Department had undergone very good training.

Chair van Sickle added that articles about the Board have appeared in the newspapers.

In response to a question from Mr. Sanchez, Chair van Sickle said the Board had been talking about the meeting for about a year. He said he felt the meeting needed to be held in fall or spring rather than summer.

Mr. Sanchez suggested the Board have a booth at Community Day, which is in May. He suggested a Police Officer and someone from City Hall could be at the booth, along with the complaint form.

Mr. Rivera said at any meeting, it might be good to ask people if they or anyone they knew ever been involved in a dispute with police that ended up at Internal Affairs – and if so, was it handled to their satisfaction? He said people often perceive Internal Affairs as ineffective because it is police monitoring police, and it would be good to begin a dialog informing citizens both about what Internal Affairs does and about the fact that people can come to the Board with police complaints.

Mr. Sanchez said he felt that if the Board really wanted to reach out to the community, it should look into having a phone number that citizens could call, and be ensured their complaints would be addressed. Chair van Sickle said citizens can call Internal Affairs, the Mayor or the City Manager, and they would tell them about the complaint form. He said no money has been allocated to get an office for the Board.

Chair van Sickle asked if the Board had taken action on any complaints that went to IA and then came back to the Board. Mr. Rivera said in one case (*name was inaudible*) the Board was informed that an IA investigation was complete and was told the Board could request from the Police Chief that the City Manager appoint an independent investigator for further investigation or request that Internal Affairs supplement the investigation in those areas determined to be deficient by the Board. He said in that case, the Board told Major Kamoia it wanted him to find the woman involved, ask her questions and convince her to go to the hospital to find the doctor who treated her in the incident to verify her claims that she was badly bruised.

Mr. Rivera cited criticism of Albuquerque's Police Oversight Committee – which stated the Police Department had no public accountability and that the committee was in danger of becoming irrelevant. Mr. Rivera asked if the Board was in danger of becoming irrelevant.

Chair van Sickle said he did not think so – that the Board was set up differently than the Albuquerque committee.

Mr. Rivera said he recalls that when the Albuquerque committee was set up it had more power than the Board – and he wanted to make sure the Board could be effective.

Chair van Sickle said the Board had not had the same experiences as the Albuquerque committee – that when the Board has asked people to check on something, it had been done.

Mr. Rivera said that was true, but that the Board hadn't asked for very much.

Chair van Sickle said he felt the Board was set up well, and simply needed to let people know they could come to the Board with problems.

Mr. Sanchez said Mr. Rivera's remarks assumed that there were problems not being dealt with when, in fact, everything might be operating just fine between police and citizens.

Chair van Sickle said the City Attorney's office would like to see the Board review some Internal Affairs cases. He said the Board had not done so yet. Lt. Bridger said the Board would not be asked to take part in hearing the cases, but to review the investigations after they were completed to see if the Board, on reviewing the record, was pleased with the way the cases were handled.

In response to a question from Mr. Rivera, Lt. Bridger said the hearings Internal Affairs conducts are recorded, and a verbatim transcription goes into the case record.

Mr. Rivera said he had asked Major Kamo for an outline of IA procedural policies. Chair van Sickle said the policies should be in the policy material Lt. Bridger gave to Mr. Sanchez at today's meeting. He said he thought the request might have fallen through the cracks with the change of liaison officers. Chair van Sickle said he understood Mr. Rivera believed the committee needed the material so it could understand how IA operates, and that, in turn, could aid members in their complaint reviews.

Chair van Sickle asked Mr. Sanchez to read the material before the next meeting and let the committee know if the material Mr. Rivera requested was included.

Ms. Moses said she believes the reason there are few complaints against police officers is because they are well trained, very polite and do their jobs well. She said the complaints she - and the NAACP - hear about are about the County Jail.

Chair van Sickle said the Board has no jurisdiction over County officers.

Moving back to the subject of the proposed community meeting, members discussed which organizations might be involved. Chair van Sickle suggested the Board keep working towards the goal of a meeting and that Board members call him suggesting which organizations should be contacted.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**

None.

**MATTERS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT LIAISON NIGEL BRIDGER**

None.

**PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Chair van Sickle asked members to inform him, between now and the October meeting, which items they wanted to include on the agenda.

**ADJOURN**

The Board's business completed, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Accepted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harvey van Sickle, Chair

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Schulman, Recorder