

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
HELD MARCH 10, 2021**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Present were Council President Bendo and Council Members Delury, McInnis and Treston. Council Member Mandel was absent.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Richard Berrios and City Manager Donna Gayden were also present.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, public attendance was suspended for this meeting. The following notice was posted prior to the meeting:

In light of current health concerns and as per Gov. Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 we are making the following changes for this Council Meeting:

- **Public attendance for this meeting will be suspended.** A live Stream of the meeting will be available on our YouTube channel. Please visit [longbeachny.gov/councilmeetings](http://longbeachny.gov/councilmeetings) for the link to our YouTube channel.
- Anyone wishing to directly participate in the meeting was provided with a link to the Zoom meeting

President Bendo spoke about the passing of Mr. Robert L. Carroll, former Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, recognizing Mr. Carroll's many contributions to the City of Long Beach.

**The calendar items were read by the City Clerk**

#1 – Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Police Reform Plan Pursuant to New York State Executive Order 203 for the City of Long Beach

Police Commissioner Ronald Walsh gave a PowerPoint presentation on the plan (see attached file Police Reform Presentation.pdf).

Council President Bendo noted that after this draft was put up, with the help of Senator Kaminsky's office, the city was able to identify a potential funding opportunity that could potentially allow the city to purchase body cameras for the Police Officers. He added that this section of the report would be updated to reflect this recent development.

Council Member Treston thanked Legislator Ford for allowing her to attend the legislative meetings held through the Nassau County Police Department on their reform reports and thanked those who worked on this document.

Roy Lester (72 Boyd St) – Commended Commissioner Walsh for doing a great job on this item and asked if the document was posted on the website. He also spoke about the beach and boardwalk closing last summer due to lack of crowd control.

Commissioner Walsh responded noting the importance of public safety and establishing dialogues with the individual organizers of these crowds to discuss the importance of the rules and regulations and if he feels it's more than the LBPD could handle, he would call Nassau County for assistance.

William Doepper – asked Commissioner Walsh if he would be having a senior adult council and would body cams be on police officers only or include detectives as well. He also asked about recordings brought in that show a police officer being excessive and if they would be reprimanded.

Commissioner Walsh replied that there had been senior members invited to serve on the police reform board and added that if there was enough interest shown, he would be open to having senior members participate on the Commissioners Community Council. He also noted that body cameras require careful planning and integration to ensure that peoples' rights were not being violated and explained how the body cameras work. Commissioner Walsh also explained that if the Police Department received any information that showed any of the city's police officer's violated policy or procedure or the law, they would be disciplined.

Leah Tozer – asked if there would be a vote taken on this item at this meeting and asked why there wasn't enough notice about the meeting so that there could be more public input.

Council President replied that no vote would be taken due to the changes that needed to be made about the body cameras. He also added that the reason for the special meeting was so that there could be public input and the reason it was held separately was because the council felt this would take some time and adding it into a regular meeting agenda could make for a very long meeting.

Commissioner Walsh noted that community members had been involved in this plan that included the North Park Crisis Intervention Team. He also noted that the entire plan including policies and procedures had been up for public comment and that feedback had been coming in. Commissioner Walsh also added that he was still open to making adjustments to the plan if necessary.

Council Vice President McInnis asked for clarity on the fact that the public had several opportunities to comment on the plan.

Commissioner Walsh replied yes and there had been many adjustments made as a result comments came in from the public and the City Council.

Council Member Delury commented that he was impressed by the groups that were involved in participating with developing the plan.

Ms. McInnis noted that it was a vast cross section of the community involved which was one of the objectives of the exercise and with the changes already made, felt this was exactly the type of initiatives the city should be pursuing.

Jennifer Drum – asked about cost comparisons regarding the body cameras and what the city had spent for the past 5 years on outside counsel relating to complaints made against the Long Beach police.

Commissioner Walsh noted that he did not have the information regarding what might have been spent on outside counsel. He also expressed his support to purchase the body-cams and noted they were being used all across the country so that all situations can be closely monitored for both the good of the public and police officers.

Ms. Drum agreed and felt that these items would be a cost savings to the city as well as the public feeling safer within the community.

Council Vice President McInnis asked if this item would be considered a contractual negotiation.

Commissioner Walsh replied that he believed Ms. McInnis was correct.

Ms. Drum then asked what the budget amount was for the body cameras and if RFP's (Requests for Proposal) were put out.

Commissioner Walsh explained that it was still in the investigatory process and would be speaking with certain vendors. He also spoke about the costs involved for the cameras such as the licensing, the software and the managing of these videos. Commissioner Walsh did say that RFP's will be part of the future plan.

James Hodge – noted the importance of this topic and how more time should have been dedicated to this item. He asked that this item not be voted on at this meeting.

Council Member Treston noted that no vote would be taken on this item at that time. She also mentioned that this was a fluid document and it would be looked at twice a year. Ms. Treston then expressed the fact that this document should be embraced and was pleased that the city was actually looking at change.

Commissioner Walsh agreed with Ms. Treston and assured her that the people of this community will have input. He also spoke about the community contacting initiative that is currently being tracked to help show the community the efforts that are being made to help show them that the police department is here to listen.

Runnie Myles – thanked the Council for not voting on this item at this time and asked that more public meetings be held on this topic.

Commissioner Walsh pointed out that he had only been Police Commissioner for the past 3 weeks and is making every effort in engaging the community for feedback on this initiative.

Council Vice President McInnis expressed her interest in attending Mr. Myles meetings in the future and spoke about the importance of communication.

Mr. Myles responded to Ms. McInnis indicating that he had invited her and the other council members in the past to his meetings and will continue to invite them in the future.

Council Member Delury thanked Inspector Rich DePalma for his efforts and input in developing the plan.

Council Member Treston also thanked Lt. Dodge and noted that this plan had been in the works for a while and encouraged the Residents to please look at the city's website more often to be better informed and should they have any questions, they should feel free to email the council.

Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Ms. Treston and was carried unanimously.

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Delury made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. McInnis and was duly closed, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: March 11, 2021

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David W. Fraser  
City Clerk