

Civilian Police Oversight Advisory Board

Aaron Calderon, Chair
Eduardo Budanauro, Vice-Chair
Zander Bolyanatz, Member
Georgia Duncan, Member
Ricardo Reichsfeld, Member
Diane McDermott, Executive Director, CPOA
Ali Abbasi, Deputy Director, CPOA

Minutes

Video Conference and In-Person

Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Plaza del Sol Basement, 600 Second NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Members Present: Aaron Calderon, Eduardo Budanauro, Zander Bolyanatz, Ricardo Reichsfeld, Georgia Duncan.

Members Absent: No Board members were absent.

Others present In-Person: Diane McDermott, Executive Director, CPOA, Ali Abbasi, Deputy Director, CPOA, Valerie Barela, Senior Administrative Assistant, CPOA, Tashia Baca, Administrative Assistant, CPOA, Cameron Johnson, Data Analyst, CPOA, Kelly Mensah, Community Engagement Manager, Patrick Turrieta, Appellant

Others present via Zoom/Webinar: Sean Higdon, APD Lieutenant, Emma Mamaluy, Assistant City Attorney, Troy Nicko, APD Acting Commander, Chris Sylvan, Council Services, Sean Waite, APD Commander, James Ortiz, APD Lieutenant, Jefferey Bustamante, Deputy Director, Olubiyi (Ty) Omotayo, Contract Compliance Office, Erin O'Neil, Investigator, CPOA, Jose Castro, Investigator, CPOA, Paul Ripley, CPC Foothills Command Member, Joseph Viers, APD 1st Commander, Douglas Feierman, Investigator, CPOA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call.** Chair Calderon called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm, and a roll call of members present was taken.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.** Chair Calderon led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Approval of the Agenda**
 - a.** A motion was made by Chair Calderon to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. June 11, 2026

1. Each Board member was provided a website link to review the draft minutes from the Civilian Police Oversight Advisory Board's regular meeting on June 11, 2026.
2. A motion was made by Chair Calderon to approve the minutes as written. The Motion was seconded by Member Bolyanatz. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports from City Departments:

a. APD

- i. Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS)– *Lieutenant James Ortiz*
 - i. A document titled "*Albuquerque Police Department Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division Monthly Report, June 2026*" was distributed electronically to CPOA Board members. For more information, Albuquerque Police Department Internal Affairs Professional Standards Monthly Reports, visit APD's website here:
<https://www.cabq.gov/police/public-reports>
 - ii. Lieutenant James Ortiz verbally reported the number of cases opened and completed. He stated there were 25 at the area command level. A 15 % decrease over the last 90 days. He noted last year they were at 234, which is 54% for June.
- ii. Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD)- *Acting Commander Troy Nicko*
 - i. A document titled *Albuquerque Police Department Monthly Use of Force Report, June 2026*, was distributed to CPOA Board members electronically. For more information on Albuquerque Police Department Monthly Use of Force Reports, visit APD's website here:
<https://www.cabq.gov/police/public-reports>

Acting Commander Troy Nicko verbally reported there were 25 Use of Force reports, a decrease over the last three months. He noted higher low-level control tactics from the officers; possible training issues. He stated he emailed an explanation to the department on low-level control tactics. Since the emails, they have decreased. He stated this was reflective of officers reporting actual low-level control tactics and the importance of capturing this data.

iii. Academy- *Lieutenant Sean Higdon*

i. Lieutenant Sean Higdon verbally reported on the academy; 14 cadets will graduate from Class 4. He stated they have 10 cadets in training; graduation date is October 19, 2026. The pre-academy class number 136, with possibly 24 cadets, begins on July 27, 2026; their basic training will start on August 17, 2026. He noted they are fulfilling the yearly requirements mandated by the state for handling mentally impaired individuals by conducting the MOE training.

ii. He noted they are doing recertification for tourniquets and trauma kits. As well as a reality-based training that started last month and will end in November 2026; all sworn personnel must go through this training.

Member Bolyantz inquired With people graduating and future cadet graduations, what is the percentage passing rate? How is the department maintaining with officers leaving APD for the field service bureau?

Lieutenant Higdon stated he will have to research those numbers. He noted their goal is to have at least 100 cadets start the academy by the end of 2026 and 100 more during 2027.

Member Bolyantz stated that if Lieutenant Higdon could provide the percentage rates, it would help determine

whether the department will maintain a positive number of officers, accounting for officers who leave or retire.

Lieutenant Higdon stated he will need to work with their operations review to find the percentage rate of retention, retirement, and officers leaving. Chair Calderon informed Lieutenant Higdon that the information will be due at the next CPOAB Meeting in August.

Vice Chair Budanauro asked for the number of PSA cadets graduating. Lieutenant Higdon reported 6 PSA's are going to start later this month.

b. ACS- *Jefferey Bustamante, Deputy Director*

1. Jeffrey Bustamante verbally reported on the ACS field division, noting summer calls tend to increase. He stated a frame of reference to last year's numbers in July 2025, expecting an increase in July 2026. He noted the violence intervention program received additional funding for a school-based intervention program. These funds will be used to hire coordinators and intervention specialists to place in the schools by August. He noted the team will be working on the new position from the current budget and funding. He finished by stating movies in the parks had over 2,000 people attend. There will be baseball, softball, and soccer camps and a pool party at Wilson Park from 11 a.m. until 2 pm. this Saturday, 07-17-2026.

c. City Attorney- *Emma Mamaluy, Assistant City Attorney*, standing in for Lindsey Rosebrough, Managing Attorney.

1. Emma Mamaluy verbally reported that the City of Albuquerque sued the Federal Board of Education related to public student loan forgiveness. She stated that the City was granted the motion for summary judgment. She noted the City Attorney's Office is partnering with the City Public Defenders' Office for a new program called CABQ Arraignment Program. The program will be in Metro Court and will be every Friday, for individuals who are

cited with APD-issued citations for city ordinance violations. She stated that this program is to divert individuals from the regular prosecution process, assisting those who need it.

d. City Council- Chris Sylvan, Council Services

1. Chris Sylvan verbally reported that the second half of the agency's Semi-Annual Report for 2025 was presented at the Finance and Government Operations Committee in June 2026, and the results were receipt be noted, and that will show up at the first Council Meeting on August 3, 2026.

e. Community Policing Council (CPC)- Kelly Mensah, Community Engagement Manager

1. Kelly Mensah verbally reported in September that the Chief of Police, Barker, will meet with the Community Policing Council. He stated the Chief of Public Safety has agreed to speak to all the City Councils on Public Safety. He noted they received three applications for council services; one was officially added in the Southwest Council. He stated he spoke with ABQ Solid Waste about the homeless establishment clean-up. He noted they had a the Council had a discussion on the enforcement of fireworks on the 4th of July before the 4th. Discussed regulations, reporting issues, illegal fireworks fines, and punishments. He added that Councilor Grout attended the Foothills meeting, giving an update on crime in the area command. Judy Duve from the Public Defender's Office spoke at the Downtown Library about what to do if you have warrants, the best way to get them closed down or taken care of.

f. CPOA- Diane McDermott, Executive Director

1. Diane McDermott verbally reported the CPOA received complaints from June 2026 that were assigned for investigation and driving complaints; there were also miscellaneous complaints, insufficient information, or determined APD personnel were not involved in the complaints that were reported. She noted some

were submitted for remediation or informal mediation, and a few commendations. She noted the NM Legal Law Group is no longer representing the CPOA, and City Legal presented a new option; attorney Ms. Nixon now represents the CPOA. She stated that to assist the public's understanding of the Use of Force policy, the CPOA published a report summarizing the changes. Located on our website under special reports. Our complaint forms are undergoing revision. We anticipate rolling out the forms on August 1, 2026. She also noted CPOA brochures are going to be re-printed. FY26 ended, and we are establishing the new contracts for the fiscal year. She finished with the ordinance amendment approved by council affirming the CPOA's authority to investigate non-sworn employees was published and effective as of June 24, 2026.

VI. Public Comment:

- a. There were no public comments

VII. Serious Use of Force Case(s): [Standing Item]

- a. APD Case #25-0067182 – *Aaron Calderon*

- i. Aaron Calderon gave a verbal overview of the Serious Use of Force Case #25- 0067182. Ali Abbasi verbally reported his review and findings of the case. Acting Commander Troy Nicko had nothing additional to add.

Aaron Calderon stated the policies were old ones before the new ones that have gone into consideration; they used those for review and determination.

- 1. **Motion:** Chair Calderon made a motion to the Civilian Police Oversight Advisory Board to affirm the finding for APD Case #25-0067182. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Officer- Involved Shooting Case:

- a. None

- i. Chair Calderon stated that for this month we do not have one on the agenda; we will continue it at the next Board meeting in August.

IX. Appeals

a. CPC 137-24

- i. Hearing on CPC 137-24
- ii. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978, excluding deliberations by the CPOAB in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceeding from the requirements of the NM Open Meetings Act
 - 1. Independent Counsel Jessica Nixon reviewed the rules and procedures that the Board and the appellee will follow during the hearing process.
 - 2. Appellant was provided 15 minutes to present his case.
 - 3. Executive Director CPOA Diane McDermott was provided 10 minutes to speak.
 - 4. APD Commander was provided 10 minutes to speak.
 - 5. APD Officer involved was not present.
 - 6. Appellant was provided an additional 5 minutes to speak.

b. CPC 138-24

- i. Hearing on CPC 137-24
- ii. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978, excluding deliberations by the CPOAB in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceeding from the requirements of the NM Open Meetings Act
 - 1. Independent Counsel Jessica Nixon reviewed the rules and procedures that the Board and the appellee will follow during the hearing process.
 - 2. Appellant was provided 15 minutes to present his case.
 - 3. Executive Director CPOA Diane McDermott was provided 10 minutes to speak.

4. APD Commander Sean Waite was provided 10 minutes to speak.
5. APD Officer involved was not present.
6. Appellant was provided an additional 5 minutes to speak.

c. CPC 158-24

i. Hearing on CPC 137-24

ii. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978, excluding deliberations by the CPOAB in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceeding from the requirements of the NM Open Meetings Act

1. Independent Counsel Jessica Nixon reviewed the rules and procedures that the Board and the appellee will follow during the hearing process.
2. Appellant was provided 15 minutes to present his case.
3. Executive Director CPOA Diane McDermott was provided 10 minutes to speak.
4. APD Commander Sean Waite was provided 10 minutes to speak.
5. APD Officer involved was not present.
6. Appellant was provided an additional 5 minutes to speak

ii. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(3) NMSA 1978, excluding deliberations by the CPOAB in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceeding from the requirements of the NM Open Meetings Act

- 1. Motion.** Chair Calderon made a motion to close deliberation. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

***** Closed session discussions on administrative adjudicatory proceedings for CPC #137-24, CPC #138-24 and CPC #158-24 began at approximately 6:50 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at approximately 7:18 p.m.*****

2. **Motion.** Chair Calderon made a motion to come out of deliberation. The motion was seconded by Member Bolyanatz. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.
3. Member Duncan provided the appellant with the CPOAB's response for CPC #137-24, CPC #138-24, and CPC#158-24. The Board concluded the appeal did not meet the standards required to overturn the Executive Director's decision. The Board concurs and upholds the findings of the CPOA Executive Director.
4. **Motion.** Chair Calderon moved that the Board affirm the findings of the CPOA for CPC #137-24, CPC #138-24, and CPC#158-24. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

I. Reports from CPOAB Subcommittee:

a. Policy and Procedure Review Subcommittee – Eduardo Budanauro

1. A meeting was held on July 2, at 3 p.m.
2. Eduardo Budanauro reported from the Subcommittee
3. Next meeting, August 6, 2026, at 3 p.m.

II. Discussion and Possible Action:

a. Ad Hoc Audit Committee – Chair Calderon

1. Chair Calderon stated the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was on June 25, 2026, to determine the case we're going to audit was case CPC 2025 000239; The July 7, 2026, meeting at 3:30 to discuss the case and questions we had before publishing or making the audit report on the case CPC 2025 000239; Chair Caleron noted the report has been provided to the Board for prior review and any changes or opinions. Ad Hoc's next meeting tentatively is the 21st of December 2026 to review the case we will be auditing. On

January 18th, we will report our findings; then we will present at the 2027 Board Meeting.

A. Motion: Chair Calderon made a motion to approve the written report as written for CPC-2025-0029. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion passed unanimously.

b. APD Policy

1. Recommendations – Ali Abbasi, Deputy Director

A. SOP 1-3 Grooming Standards

i. Ali Abbasi stated the Recommendation to the policy owner to remove or revise the prohibition of dreadlocks, citing the conflict with the Crown Act and the CABQ City Human Rights Ordinance.

1. Motion: Chair Calderon made a motion to direct the CPOA to forward the recommendation on the CPOA Board's behalf. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Bolyanatz. The motion passed unanimously.

B. SOP 3-46 Discipline Systems

i. Ali Abbasi stated Gabe Remer created three different versions of the Chart of Sanctions. No recommendations, just offering APD the options to review and use one of the charts created.

2. Motion: Chair Calderon made a motion to direct the CPOA to forward the recommendation of sanctions in totality; Alternative number three is the voted preferred one. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Budanauro. The motion passed unanimously.

2. No Recommendations

A. SOP 1-54

There were no policy recommendations for SOP 1-54.

B. SOP 2-4 Use of Respirators

There were no policy recommendations for SOP 2-4.

C. SOP 2-110 Facial Recognition Management System

There were no policy recommendations for SOP 2-110.

D. SOP 3-15 Sworn Personnel Positions and Seniority

There were no policy recommendations for SOP 3-15.

III. Other Business

- a.** Chair Calderon stated he would like to make a motion to disband the Ad Hoc Committee.
- b.** Valerie Barela stated that it should be added to next month's Board agenda as an agenda item for possible action. It is not listed on this agenda but can be added to the next one.
- c.** Attorney Jessica Nixon stated she would agree with that recommendation; there are no items listed on this agenda.
- d.** Chair Calderon asked to add a motion to disband to the next agenda.

IV. Adjournment- *The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, 5:00 p.m.*

- a. Motion.** A motion was made by Chair Calderon to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Bolyanatz. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.
- b.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Aaron Calderon, Chair
Civilian Police Oversight Advisory Board

Date

CC: Isaac Padilla, City Council Staff
Ethan Watson, City Clerk
Klarissa Pena, City Council President

Minutes drafted and submitted by:
Tashia Baca, CPOA Administrative Assistant

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