

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

THE INGLEWOOD POLICE COMMISSION AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AMENDMENT

SECTION 1. TITLE

This measure shall be known and may be cited as:

“The Inglewood Police Commission Authority and Accountability Amendment.”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The People of the City of Inglewood hereby amend the City Charter to establish independent civilian oversight of the Inglewood Police Department through a Police Commission vested with authority to appoint, evaluate, discipline, and remove the Chief of Police and to provide robust oversight of police operations, misconduct investigations, use-of-force incidents, and public accountability.

This Amendment is intended to:

- Strengthen accountability measures for law enforcement;
- Ensure accountability at the highest levels of police leadership;
- Provide independent, community-based oversight;
- Improve transparency and public trust;
- Establish independent investigative authority;
- Promote constitutional policing and public safety; and
- Align public safety leadership with the values and expectations of the community.

SECTION 3. POLICE COMMISSION

A. Establishment

There shall be a Police Commission consisting of five (5) members.

B. Appointment and Composition

1. One (1) member shall be appointed by each City Councilmember.
2. Each appointee shall reside within the appointing Councilmember's district.
3. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Mayor and may reside anywhere within the City.
4. The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually.

C. Authority Over Chief of Police

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter or Municipal Code:

1. The Police Commission shall have the sole and exclusive authority to:
 - Appoint the Chief of Police;
 - Evaluate the performance of the Chief of Police;
 - Discipline the Chief of Police; and
 - Remove the Chief of Police.
2. The Chief of Police shall serve at the pleasure of the Police Commission.
3. The authority granted herein shall supersede any authority previously vested in the City Manager, Mayor, or City Council regarding the appointment, discipline, or removal of the Chief of Police.

D. Police Commission Oversight Powers

The Police Commission shall have authority to:

1. Review and investigate civilian complaints involving:
 - Excessive force;
 - Serious misconduct;
 - Discriminatory policing;

- Abuse of authority;
 - Constitutional rights violations;
 - Failure to comply with departmental policy.
2. Review all Critical Incidents including:
 - Officer-involved shootings;
 - In-custody deaths;
 - Uses of force resulting in serious bodily injury;
 - Deaths occurring during police encounters;
 - Any incident designated by the Commission as a matter of significant public concern.
 3. Monitor and review:
 - Use-of-force investigations;
 - Internal Affairs investigations;
 - Patterns and practices of misconduct;
 - Compliance with body-worn camera requirements;
 - Compliance with state and federal law.
 4. Conduct public hearings and issue findings, recommendations, and reports.
 5. Recommend policy changes, training requirements, disciplinary reforms, and operational improvements.

E. Subpoena Authority

The Police Commission shall possess the authority to issue subpoenas for:

1. Documents, records, electronic communications, audio recordings, video recordings, body-worn camera footage, investigative files, policies, procedures, and related materials.
2. Attendance and testimony of witnesses.

3. Current and former City employees, contractors, officers, and other persons possessing relevant information.

4. Subpoenas may be enforced through the Superior Court in accordance with applicable law.

5. Failure to comply with a lawful subpoena may be referred to the City Attorney for enforcement proceedings.

6. Nothing herein shall require disclosure prohibited by state or federal law.

F. Independent Investigative Authority

1. The Commission may employ or contract with independent investigators, auditors, legal counsel, and subject matter experts.

2. The Commission may independently investigate:

- Civilian complaints;
- Critical incidents;
- Use-of-force investigations;
- Alleged violations of Commission policies.

3. The Commission shall have timely access to records and evidence necessary to conduct investigations.

G. Funding and Staffing

1. The City shall annually allocate no less than five percent (5%) of the total adopted Police Department operating budget to support the operations of the Police Commission.

2. Such funding shall not be reduced below the minimum established herein except by a vote of the people.

3. The Commission shall maintain sufficient professional staff including attorneys, auditors, administrative personnel, and investigators.

4. The Commission shall employ or contract for no fewer than one (1) full-time investigator for every one hundred (100) sworn police officers employed by the Inglewood Police Department.

5. Funding allocated to the Commission shall be administered independently and shall not be subject to approval by the Police Department.

H. Civilian Complaint Intake, Investigation, and Resolution

1. The Police Commission shall have primary responsibility for receiving, investigating, reviewing, and resolving civilian complaints against members of the Inglewood Police Department.

2. Complaints may be submitted by any person regardless of age, residency, citizenship status, incarceration status, or relationship to the incident.

3. The City shall maintain multiple methods for filing complaints including:

- In-person;
- Online;
- Telephone;
- Mail;
- Community-based intake locations.

4. The Commission shall maintain a public complaint tracking system consistent with applicable privacy laws.

5. All civilian complaints shall be investigated and resolved within one hundred twenty (120) days unless extraordinary circumstances require additional time.

6. Written findings shall be issued upon completion of investigations.

I. Critical Incident Response

1. The Police Commission shall be immediately notified of:

- Officer-involved shootings;
- In-custody deaths;

- Uses of force resulting in serious bodily injury;
 - Any death occurring during or following a law enforcement encounter.
2. Upon notification, the Commission shall assign an independent investigator to respond to the scene as soon as reasonably practicable.
 3. Independent investigators shall be provided access to the scene, evidence, recordings, reports, and witnesses consistent with applicable law.
 4. The Commission shall be provided timely access to body-worn camera footage, dispatch recordings, investigative reports, and other evidence.

J. Independent Investigations of Deadly Force Incidents

1. The Police Commission may conduct independent investigations of any officer-involved shooting, in-custody death, or use of deadly force.
2. Independent investigators may interview involved officers, witnesses, and other relevant persons in accordance with applicable law.
3. To the fullest extent permitted by law, interviews of involved officers shall occur as soon as practicable following a deadly force incident and shall not be delayed by departmental policy alone.
4. Nothing herein shall diminish constitutional rights or protections guaranteed by state or federal law.

K. Performance Review

1. The Police Commission shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Chief of Police.
2. Evaluation criteria shall include:
 - Compliance with department policies and applicable laws;
 - Transparency and accountability practices;
 - Community engagement;
 - Departmental performance metrics;

- Use-of-force trends;
- Complaint resolution outcomes.

3. A summary of the evaluation shall be made publicly available consistent with applicable law.

4. The Commission may recommend compensation adjustments to the City Council.

L. Reporting Requirements

The Chief of Police shall:

1. Attend regular meetings of the Police Commission.
2. Provide reports regarding:
 - Department operations;
 - Use-of-force incidents;
 - Officer-involved shootings;
 - Critical incidents;
 - Complaint investigations;
 - Compliance with applicable laws and policies.
3. Submit an annual written report detailing:
 - Department performance;
 - Accountability measures;
 - Community relations efforts;
 - Crime trends;
 - Compliance with Commission directives.

M. Public Accountability Reporting

1. The Police Commission shall publish quarterly reports summarizing:
 - Complaints received;
 - Complaint dispositions;
 - Use-of-force incidents;
 - Officer-involved shootings;
 - In-custody deaths;
 - Disciplinary recommendations;
 - Compliance with Commission directives.

2. The Commission shall publish an annual State of Police Accountability Report.

3. All reports shall be publicly available and presented during a public meeting.

N. Independence

The Police Commission shall operate independently of the Police Department and City administration and shall not be subject to direction from the Chief of Police, City Manager, Mayor, or City Council in carrying out its oversight and investigative functions, except as otherwise required by law.

The Commission shall be provided an annual budget sufficient to perform its duties under this Charter.

SECTION 4. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS

All provisions of the Inglewood City Charter or Municipal Code in conflict with this Amendment are hereby amended to conform to this section.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Amendment is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Amendment shall take effect upon certification of election results.