

Agenda Item 4. Open Forum

The Police Commission's Code of Conduct requires that commissioners act in the public interest, not personal or partisan interests; that when speaking publicly, they clearly state whether they represent the Commission or themselves; and that they present the Commission's official position only when authorized.

Yet we've seen repeated departures from these principles. In a radio interview, Commissioners Farmer and Garcia-Acosta spoke as if representing the Commission, while making partisan remarks and implying Council interference. The NSA statement to Judge Orrick likewise accused the City of "falsehoods," criticized Council decisions, and warned of jeopardizing NSA compliance; language that violated the duty of neutrality.

Outside this body, activists John Lindsey-Poland and Jennifer Tu misled KTVU into reporting that OPD had violated state law on rifle purchases, a story that was later retracted. That false narrative circulated right before the Commission's vote on the militarized-equipment policy, undermining public trust.

These episodes share a pattern: politics and misinformation overriding procedure and integrity. The Commission's credibility depends on adhering to its own Code and speaking truthfully, maintaining neutrality, and distinguishing personal advocacy from official action.

I urge this body to reaffirm those standards tonight so that Oakland's oversight can remain principled, lawful, and worthy of public confidence.

Agenda Item 6. Militarized equipment use report

I am sure that Mykah is reading this with her perennial grace and poise, and I thank her for it. I have previously voiced my dissent with the commission's draft review of OPD's MEU report and equipment requests based on policies and procedures.

However, since that hasn't been heard, I will share with you something personal, which I am hesitant to do.

I know how important having proper equipment is to do your job. When I was working in nursing homes, I was not told about a flu outbreak and was not given proper personal protective equipment. I fell sick, and so did my family. But I was the one who developed viral sepsis and almost didn't make it - only to be left with complications and a chronic disability - which is lifelong and prevents me from doing the job I loved.

I trusted my employer to give me the proper equipment and environment to do my job safely - which is what OPD is requesting today. The commission's recommendations in their review document dismiss OPD's legitimate concerns and requests. We trust OPD to do their jobs, so it is incumbent on the City to provide them the equipment to do so.

I was not given that chance and it led to lifelong consequences. I hope that all the commissioners have closely read OPD's requests, and that you vote to approve them.

Agenda Item 7. NSA Conference statement

I want to express concern about the tone and partisanship of the Police Commission's recent NSA statement to Judge Orrick. The document goes far beyond reporting on compliance; it accuses the City of spreading falsehoods, criticizes Council for rejecting specific commissioners, and even warns that Oakland could "risk compliance with the NSA" if it doesn't defend the current Commission. Those are political assertions, not legal findings.

By framing internal disagreements as "attacks" and portraying itself as the "most effective Commission yet," the authors turned what should have been a professional progress update into a self-serving political letter. That approach diminishes the Commission's credibility before the Court and makes it appear petty and defensive, not neutral or fact-based.

Oversight must be independent, not partisan and guided by law, evidence, and procedure, not personal grievances or political loyalty. When politics enters an official filing to a federal judge, it undermines trust in the entire oversight process.

I urge the Commission to restore neutrality and professionalism so that oversight in Oakland is respected and not politicized.