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Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:53 AM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Monique DeLaGarza <Monique.DeLaGarza@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Please include these comments for the City Council Mtg

-EXTERNAL-

Please include this article for item number 20-0543 <https://beachcomber.news/content/commissioners-investigator-declare-cpcc-%E2%80%98-farce%E2%80%99>

I would like this article read as my public comments for the meeting. It is against my first admendment rights that we don't have public comments now

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Commissioners, Investigator Declare CPCC 'A Farce'

Published by admin on Sun, 06/07/2020 - 11:50am

By: Stephen Downing



Former CPCC Chief Investigator Thomas Gonzales labels the "urgent" council agenda Item scheduled for June 9 meeting "Just another scam by the politicians that is nothing more than flipping the pancake and putting it back on the same grill."

Long Beach Citizen Police Complaint Commission (CPCC) board member Porter Gilberg said it out loud, in public at Harvey Milk Park in front of hundreds of protesters on June 5 – "I am on the Citizen's Police Complaint Commission ... and the commission is a farce."

Gilbert isn't the only member of the commission who has made that assessment; he's just the first one to announce it in public – and he delivered his list of reasons for calling the CPCC a farce that included the following statements:

- "There is no accountability."
- "I am on a body that looks at police complaints, that makes recommendations but has no decision-making power."
- "I look at cases of police violence and police brutality and I do not get to say one word about it."
- "Commissioners are never made aware of the outcomes of individual investigations."
- "There are no written investigative policies or procedures for investigators, meaning there are no formal rules for how commission staff is to conduct investigations."

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- “Commissioners do not have access to all the evidence in an investigation.
- “Evidence is, in fact, withheld from us that would allow us to make a more informed decision.”
- “Because we do not have access to all the evidence, we don’t even know what we’re not seeing.”
- “The evidence we do not have access to is often cited by the city manager as reasons for overturning our recommendations to uphold the allegations of misconduct.”
- “This is all based on what the city attorney says and is not fact. Although the city takes this as fact.”
- “The city attorney’s interpretation of law has made the subpoena power of the commission useless.”

(NOTE: In its 30-year history – although empowered to subpoena witnesses and documents, swear witnesses and conduct hearings, the CPCC has never done so for any case – including the LBPD cover-up of Councilperson Peace’s criminal assault and DUI case.)

Two former CPCC commissioners known to the *Beachcomber* also saw through the City Hall PR machine and wanted to go public in years past but did not because City Attorney Charles Parkin advised: “If you reveal anything about CPCC business you can be prosecuted under the Brown Act.”

Those commissioners took the threat to heart, fearing bankruptcy from city retaliation – until today.

When informed of Gilbert’s “CPCC farce” declaration in an interview with the *Beachcomber* on June 6, former CPCC Commissioner Richard Lindemann said, “I agree with Gilbert, it is a farce.”

In an interview the same day with David Clement, the former CPCC commission chair, he said, “I don’t think the CPCC has ever met its original intent to be an independent investigative body. City staff selectively picked over everything we were allowed to see, and our investigators were never permitted to interview the accused officers. What kind of investigation is that?”

Former CPCC Chief Investigator Thomas Gonzales terminated in 2006 for complaining about the city’s corrupted investigative practices and his attempts to expose LBPD excessive use of force cover-ups (he sued and won a judgment of \$775,000) said of Gilbert’s statement, “I agree 100 percent. It’s always been a farce. They’re doing the same thing today as they did back in 2006 when they went after me for knowing too much and trying to expose it.”

The *Beachcomber* has published multiple articles and opinion pieces detailing stories that support Gilbert’s public announcement – as well as those made on June 6 by the two former CPCC commissioners and the chief investigator whose story the *Beachcomber* has tracked through two trials over the past eight years. (See <https://beachcomber.news/content/jury-decision-validates-city-hall-corru...>) and (<https://beachcomber.news/content/city-attorney-squanders-another-200000>).

The mayor, city manager, city attorney and every member of the City Council responded to the each of the multiple *Beachcomber* articles either with dead silence or by resurrecting the status quo drumbeat of praise for the value of the CPCC’s oversight functions as well as its “independence.”

Both Lindeman and Gonzales were also aware of the new calendar item hurriedly placed on the City Council agenda for Tuesday, June 9 by Councilmembers Al Austin,



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misconduct we need to hold the City Council members, mayor coward corrupt police chief Luna Accountable.. We need an investigation of the whole police department we need to bring in the sheriffs to take over.

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LBcitizen first (not verified)

Mon, 06/08/2020 - 11:20am

I just read an article where Mayor Robert Garcia said about 85 people were arrested for the unrest!! what a LIER this clown and the COP Luna want to keep laying to us. They left out the fact that those numbers are for every law violated all over the city and including citations, this even includes crimes not even related to the unrest.. We want to know how many people were arrested for "LOOTING" we don't want inflated number of arrested for peaceful protesting which includes curfew violations. We want numbers of the real criminals!! Not the numbers of people arrested for invoking their constitutional rights!!!. The laughable thing is that the Garcia said "85 people were arrested" all proudly and arrogant. 85 people is nothing!!!, compared to us seeing hundreds of people LOOTING on TV, while he had officer stand around and forming lines in front of peaceful protesters. Why can't these city people admit that the COP Luna failed at his job and fire him!!! Why do they keep trying to defend this incompetent COP.. This Mayor needs to go and we need to know the truth. We need people held accountable if not this type of unrest will happen again. The Mayor said he was with us right after the protest but know his lying again,,I guess that was all BS!!!

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Suzie Price, Dee Andrews and Rex Richardson to have the city manager “Take a fresh look at the role of the CPCC and identify options for increasing accountability and transparency in the relationship between our Police Department and the community.”

Lindemann said he saw the agenda item as “another farce and delaying tactic that will allow the politicians to buy time until the controversy fades from memory and City Hall goes back to business as usual.”

Gonzales said, Tuesday’s agenda item is “just another cover-up; they’re going to turn the pancake over and put it back on the same grill. All they want to do is make the people happy and get them off their backs.”

Lindemann added, “A better idea would be to have the council appoint a blue-ribbon commission made up of people of color affected by police violence, educators, activists and others affected parties, as well as former CPCC commissioners like me and Mr. Gilberg. We can tell it like it is.”

Lindemann also voiced support for a change to the City Charter that would morph the CPCC into a board of police commissioners with hire and fire authority over the chief of police and policy authority over all LBPD operations, with its support staff to include an inspector general empowered to inspect all police operations from recruitment to academy training to internal affairs investigations.

Interested parties can make eComment on the agenda item scheduled as agenda item #26 at: https://longbeach.granicusideas.com/meetings/3165-city-council/agenda_items

Other written comments may also be submitted by email to: cityclerk@longbeach.gov.

Stephen Downing is a resident of Long Beach and a retired LAPD deputy chief of police.

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Sun, 06/07/2020 - 10:07pm

This is ridiculous for years people have been complaining about this wanabe fake police oversight committee and nothing has ever been done. This is another tool that is used by the corrupt police department to hide the