



CITY OF MODESTO
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE OF MEETING:
May 23, 2023

Date: May 1, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Joseph P. Lopez, City Manager

FROM: Allison Van Guilder, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Committee Appointments - Community Police Review Board

CONTACT: Allison Van Guilder, Deputy City Manager, avanguilder@modestogov.com,
209-577-5228

DESCRIPTION:

Consider approving the appointments of Frank Damrell, Kenneth Bryant, Nico Solorio, Latricia Beasley Day, Austin Grant, Nancy Smith, Brad Hawn, Trish Christensen, and Wendy Byrd for the Community Police Review Board beginning on June 15, 2023, to serve their respective terms, and approving the six applicants to serve as primary reserve candidates to be considered for appointment if a vacancy occurs within 12 months of the CPRB's initial establishment. (Funding Source: Not Applicable)

STRATEGIC PLAN ELEMENT:

The recommended action supports the City's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Initiatives: Goal A. Improve Community Safety- Engage staff and local organizations in public safety efforts.

BACKGROUND:

On May 22, 2021, a listening session was held as a formal launch of the Forward Together initiative where the following key primary themes emerged: 1) Accountability, 2) Policies and Practices, and 3) Alternate Response Models. Subsequently, on June 8, 2021, by Resolution No. 2021-216, the City Council approved the formation of the Forward Together working group in support of a community engagement process to educate and explore solutions that address broad areas of concern as expressed in the listening session. The Forward Together working group then held a series of facilitated public workshops and ad hoc meetings focused on improving police-community relations in the City of Modesto.

On August 23, 2022, by Resolution No. 2022-358, the City Council accepted the Forward Together work group's report which contained several recommendations and directed staff to carry out the appropriate next steps. On December 13, 2022 by Resolution No. 2022-499 Council approved to establish a Community Police Review Board (CPRB) and approve its bylaws in conjunction with contracting the services of an Independent Police Auditor (IPA).

A total of 73 CPRB applications were received from January 3, 2023, through January 31, 2023. Of the eligible applicants, 42 participated in interviews, and 15 applicants who received the highest scores were invited to a second interview. The CPRB bylaws state: The CPRB shall be comprised of nine (9) members who reside within the city limits with preference provided to residents representing diverse ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, professional experience, organizational affiliations, and neighborhoods/districts in Modesto.

DISCUSSION:

The Appointments Committee conducted interviews of 42 candidates on March 30, April 3, and April 11, 2023. The 15 applicants who received the highest scores were invited to a second interview. On April 28, 2023, the Appointments Committee conducted second interviews of the 15 highest ranking candidates and approved to forward to the full Council, nine (9) applicants to serve as board members, with six (6) applicants to remain as primary reserve candidates as shown in **Exhibit A**. Primary reserve candidates shall be considered for appointment if a vacancy occurs within 12 months of the CPRB's initial establishment.

Exhibit A

Applicant Name (9)	Term
Frank Damrell	2027
Kenneth Bryant	2027
Nico Solorio	2027
Latricia Beasley Day	2027
Austin Grant	2027
Nancy Smith	2028
Brad Hawn	2028
Trish Christensen	2028
Wendy Byrd	2028

Primary Reserves Candidates (6)
Eileen VerHulst
Nicolas Sottero
Steven Finch
Douglas K. Highiet
Sandra Lucas
Julie Nelson

FISCAL IMPACT:

Notwithstanding staff in-kind support, there is currently no direct fiscal impact for the CPRB. A budget has been proposed for fiscal year 2023/2024 expenses and will be managed by the City Manager's Office to provide in-kind staff support to the recommended efforts. Additionally, this will support future training expenses such as the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Appointments Committee approved to forward the above-mentioned names to Council on April 28, 2023.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Staff Recommendations:

Resolution approving the appointments of Frank Damrell, Kenneth Bryant, Nico Solorio, Latricia Beasley Day, Austin Grant, Nancy Smith, Brad Hawn, Trish Christensen, and Wendy Byrd for the Community Police Review Board beginning on June 15, 2023, to serve their respective terms, and approving the six applicants to serve as primary reserve candidates to be considered for appointment if a vacancy occurs within 12 months of the CPRB's initial establishment.

Approved by:

Allison Van Guilder, Deputy City Manager

Joseph P. Lopez, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution