Alameda County
Board of Supervisors’
Public Safety Community Relations Ad Hoc Committee

Tuesday, November 24, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Richard Valle

Location: Board of Supervisors’ Chambers – Room 512, 5th Fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary Minutes

Call to Order/Salute to Flag

Supervisor Miley called the meeting to order and lead the flag salute.

I. Purpose of meeting/II. Discussion and Public Input on Scope of Committee

Supervisor Nate Miley, District 4, stated that the purpose of the Public Safety Community Relations Ad Hoc Committee was to enhance police and community relations.

The intention of the Committee is not to replace the Public Protection Committee. The purpose of today’s meeting is not to discuss specific matters of any pending investigation and or litigation. The Committee would like to gain a sense of the community and attendees concerns.

Supervisor Richard Valle, District 2, stated that he has found that through the Public Protection Committee and the AB 109 reentry process that all of the County departments worked together. Supervisor Valle hopes that the community and this Committee can work together similarly. Supervisor Valle shares the concerns of the community regarding the County’s accountability to the people of Alameda County.

Speakers

Tanti Martinez read a list of three demands to the Committee that she hopes to achieve through this process:

1) Request an open and transparent investigation into the death of Mario Michael Martinez, including the suspension of officers who were in the pod at the time of Mr. Mario Martinez death, until the conclusion of the investigation.

2) Immediate cancellation of the Corizon Health’s contract with Alameda County’s detention facilities, including Santa Rita and Glenn Dyer jails.

3) Immediate audit of the Sheriff’s practices and protocols relating to responses to grievances and support for those who suffer from chronic medical illnesses.

Ms. Martinez stated that her son, Mario Martinez filed a grievance against Corizon Health Services and the Sheriff’s Office never responded to the grievance. In addition Ms. Martinez asked if an investigation into her son’s death has begun and if so who is in charge of the investigation. Ms. Martinez also asked if the deputies have been suspended who were in the pod with her son at the time of his death.
John Jones stated he is greatly concerned about the following information regarding the Corizon Health Services contract with Alameda County: the no bid contract with the County; Corizon has had 660 lawsuits filed against them; they were kicked out of Riker’s Island in New York and four other states canceled contracts with Corizon. Mr. Jones feels that the contract should be canceled. Mr. Jones supports the Martinez family and is disheartened that there are no clear answers to the investigation and or the suspension of the deputies.

Sheri Costel asked what would it take to cancel the Corizon contract with Alameda County. Ms. Costel requested the following information: How many deaths have happened within the jails in the last 20 years and the status of those investigations; what is the status of grievances filed in the jails over the last 20 years. She also asked is there anyone who monitors the Sheriff. Ms. Costel called for the Department of Justice and the FBI to launch an investigation into the death of her nephew, Mario Martinez.

Terry Sandoval on behalf of the Labor Council spoke in support of the Martinez family and called for the District Attorney, the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff’s Office to begin an open and transparent investigation into the death of Mario Martinez. In addition, she is calling for the suspension of the deputies in the pod at the time of Mr. Martinez death.

Keith Brown, Treasurer, Oakland Education Association, stated that he is here to support the demands of the family of Mario Martinez. Mr. Brown teaches middle school and strives to eradicate the school to prison pipeline in the schools and in the community and create restorative justice programs. He requests a sense of urgency from Alameda County to address the issues surrounding the death of Mr. Martinez.

Brandon Sturdivant, Oakland Community Organization, supports the family of Mario Martinez. Mr. Sturdivant stated that this process has been completely disrespectful, beginning with the late start of the meeting. In addition there have been no answers as to the suspension of the deputies in the pod at the time of Mr. Martinez death. There were no answers given by County Counsel as to the status of the investigation. Mr. Sturdivant requested a Sheriff’s Review Board to demand transparency around this investigation. Mr. Sturdivant asked what is needed to release information regarding the investigation of Mr. Mario Martinez death.

Chris Cara stated that he supports the demands of the Martinez family.

Maria Dominguez, PUEBLO, requests that Corizon Health Services bring a report to the next meeting. Ms. Dominguez supports the demands of the Martinez family.

In response to concerns raised by the speakers, the following information was relayed by County staff, Assistant Sheriff Casey Nice, Assistant Sheriff Brett Keteles and Assistant County Counsel Andrea Weddle:

- An investigation into the death of Mario Martinez has begun – the Sheriff’s Office submitted a report including the Coroner’s report to the District Attorney
- There has been a claim filed by the family and there is a separate investigation into the death of Mario Martinez being handled by the County’s Risk Management Unit
- All inmate deaths are reported to the Department of Justice
- In response to the deputies in the pod at the time of Mario’s death – that is a personnel matter and the deputies are protected by the Policemen’s Bill of Rights
- The AIMS panel reviews all medical deaths at Santa Rita Jail as well as the Public Health Department completes inspections at Santa Rita Jail
- The Sheriff’s Office will work with County Counsel to determine what information can be released regarding the investigation into the death of Mr. Mario Martinez.
II. Next Steps

Supervisors Miley and Supervisor Valle directed that the following information be brought back to the Committee:

- The status of the investigation into the death of Mario Martinez (information that can be released)
- Status of the Corizon Health Services contract
- 20 years data on deaths at Santa Rita Jail and outcomes of the investigations
- 20 years data on grievances and the status filed at Santa Rita Jail
- Grievance protocols and procedures of the Sheriff’s Office
- Information of on the AIMS panel and its function in relation to Santa Rita Jail
- Information on Sheriff’s Review Board
- Information on the Coroner’s Report

**Purpose:**

- [ ] Report progress
- [ ] Advocacy or Education
- [ ] Request Public Safety Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- [x] Other: Follow up information in the Next Steps

Supervisor Miley apologized for the meeting’s late start and expressed that his intent was not to be disrespectful to this sensitive matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

The meeting was adjourned to December 16, 2015.