

From: [Tim Elinski](#)
To: [Rudy Rodriguez](#); [Steve Horton](#); [Scotty Douglass](#); [Amanda Wilber](#)
Subject: Gesell
Date: Friday, May 12, 2023 10:21:49 AM

All,

Rudy asked if I could write up a summary of the events surrounding Chief Gesell's behavior at the special meeting May 9th.

Earlier in the day on Tuesday during our weekly meeting Rudy and I met to discuss the executive session item. I shared my concern that it would probably be best if the Chief were not at the meeting so that he wouldn't try to insert himself into the E Session discussion. My concern is that he may want to rehash the investigation and the findings, which would have been counterproductive in my opinion, as the findings were complete and we just needed to discuss the best legal path forward. When I arrived for the meeting I saw that the Chief and Commander Dowell were in attendance. At the close of our work session, while we took a five minute recess prior to starting our special meeting, Councilmember Kurot leaned over and said she wanted to make sure the Chief and Commander would be in our E Session. I told her they could remain available for any questions if council needed, but no, they would not be invited in at the beginning. Councilwoman DuVernay overheard and said she wanted them both in E Session, too, and I repeated that they could be available if needed. I figured the Chief had already spoken with one or both of these council members, so I decided I should speak directly with the Chief prior to the meeting starting and to try to avoid an uncomfortable situation in open session. I approached the Chief and Commander and said Gentlemen, I want to make sure you both stick around and are available to answer any questions that council may have as we go into E Session, which was my polite way of reinforcing that he was not invited in. The Chief then became irritable and insisted that he be in E Session with council. He said that Rudy was trying to keep him out and that he must be in E Session so that he could tell his side of the story and give council the whole picture. I repeated that he should stick around to be available should we need him, he was very irritated and repeated himself and I stood up and went back to the dais.

Following that, we started the meeting and we all saw the uncomfortable back and forth between council members Kurot, DeWillis and DuVernay where Christina had to step in and keep the Chief from inserting himself in E Session. After our discussion and the conclusion of the meeting I left out the back door to avoid interacting with the Chief, who I figured was outside the Chambers on the sidewalk. The following morning I heard from Horton that the Chief had treated Rudy poorly and I reached out to Rudy to get the story. Rudy explained that the Chief was agitated, verbally abusive and said this is not over yet Rudy. We talked about what the next steps were and I encouraged him to at a minimum let the Chief go home on admin leave and cool off and we could address the situation when Scotty comes on board.

On Thursday morning Rudy called and he let me know that he planned on putting the Chief on paid admin leave. He said he would put Commander Braxton in charge and they'd evaluate everything once Scotty has had a chance to investigate. Rudy said he would send an email to council later in the day letting them know. Around 4:30 I got a call from Kurot wanting to know what was going on and

why was Braxton put in charge. She said she had called the Chief to check in, and he told her he couldn't talk with her because he was on admin leave. I told her all this was true and she should discuss with Rudy. We spoke again an hour later and she wanted me to undo Rudy's decision to put Braxton in charge as she felt it would cause a mass exodus from PD. I told her it was a managerial decision, and not something that council can/should control. After Rudy's email went out to council letting them know about Gesell being on admin leave I got a text from DuVernay expressing her frustration and I directed her to Rudy without discussing any context. Later that evening I received a text from Kurot insisting that I call an emergency meeting for Friday (today) to which I replied that Scotty is committed to fixing the problem when he starts on Monday.

That sums up the last couple days. I'm happy to flesh out any details, just let me know what else you need from me.