

Police Review Commission (PRC)

**POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

**South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
(Speakers are generally allotted up to three minutes, but may be allotted less time if there are many speakers. They may comment on items on the agenda or any matter within the PRC's jurisdiction at this time.)
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Regular Meeting of April 27, 2016
- 5. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT**
Crime, budget, staffing, training updates, and other items.
- 6. HEARING: BPD INVOLVEMENT IN OLD CITY HALL (LIBERTY CITY) ENCAMPMENT – DECEMBER 2015**
 - a. Presentation by Capt. Greenwood (20 min.)
 - b. Statements by Liberty City participants and supporters (20 min.)
 - c. Commissioner discussion and possible action
- 7. OLD BUSINESS (discussion & action)**
 - a. Letter to District Attorney regarding prosecution of Liberty City protesters.
From: Commissioner Bernstein
- 8. NEW BUSINESS (discussion & action)**
 - a. Proposed new General Order: Interactions With Individuals Identifying As Transgender
From: Transgender General Order Subcommittee

- b. Proposed new General Order: Body-worn Cameras
(To be delivered.)
From: Body-worn Cameras Subcommittee
- c. Evaluation of "Protest 101" guide on BPD website.
(Distributed at April 27, 2016 meeting.)
From: Commissioner Smith
- d. Formal designation of law enforcement and union representatives at PRC meetings.
From: Commissioner Bernstein
- e. Prioritization of requests to BPD from PRC
From: PRC Officer

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

10. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

Status of complaints; announcements.

11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (discussion & action)

- a. Body-Worn and Dash Cameras Subcommittee
Update; schedule next meeting date
- b. General Orders C-64, etc. Subcommittee
Update; schedule next meeting date
- c. December 7 & 8 Investigation Subcommittee
Update; schedule next meeting date
- d. Transgender G.O. Subcommittee
Consider dissolution of subcommittee

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ATTACHMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Attached.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Speakers are generally allotted up to three minutes, but may be allotted less time if there are many speakers; they may comment on items on the agenda at this time.)

14. ADJOURNMENT

Communications Disclaimer

Communications to the Police Review Commission, like all communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees, are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the PRC Secretary. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the PRC Secretary for further information.



Communication Access Information (A.R.1.12)

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB 343 Disclaimer

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Police Review Commission, located at 1947 Center Street, 3rd floor, during regular business hours.

Contact the Police Review Commission at (510) 981-4950 or prc@cityofberkeley.info.



PRC REGULAR MEETING ATTACHMENTS

May 11, 2016

MINUTES

April 27, 2016 Regular Meeting Page 7

AGENDA-RELATED

Item 6. – BPD Training and Information Bulletin, number 220, dated September 21, 2009. Page 11

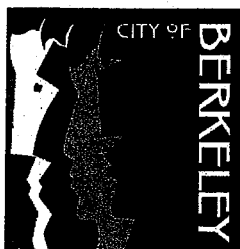
Item 8.a – Proposed General Order for BPD: Interactions With Individuals Identifying As Transgender. Page 17

Item 8.e – Memo from PRC Officer to PRC Commissioners, dated May 4, 2016: Prioritizing requests to BPD. Page 21

COMMUNICATIONS

- Memo from Chief of Police to the PRC, dated 4-4-15 re Status of post-incident review recommendations nos. 1, 14, 15, 31 and 32. ⁷⁽¹⁶⁾ Page 23
- Article from EastBayExpress.com, dated April 6, 2016 re Mental Health 9 1 1. Page 25
- Emails dated May 3, 2016 regarding a request for a PRC commissioner to serve on a panel following the screening of "Peace Officer." Page 33

KJL:mgm



Police Review Commission (PRC)

**POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
(unapproved)**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

**South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley**

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL BY VICE-CHAIR ROBERTS AT 7:13 P.M.

Present: Commissioner Terry Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Alison Bernstein
Commissioner Jerry Javier (arrived 7:35 p.m.)
Commissioner George Lippman
Commissioner Michael Sherman
Commissioner Kad Smith
Commissioner Ayelet Waldman
Commissioner Ari Yampolsky

Absent: Commissioner George Perezvelez (Chair)

PRC Staff: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer

BPD Staff: Chief Michael Meehan (left 7:45 p.m.) Lt. Dan Montgomery, Sgt Benjamin Cardoza, Sgt. Todd Sabins

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by general consent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one speaker.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2016

Moved/Seconded (Bernstein/Sherman) Motion Carried

Ayes: Bernstein, Lippman, Roberts, Sherman, Waldman, and Yampolsky.

Noes: None

Abstain: Smith

Absent: Javier, Perezvelez

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

6. PRC OFFICER'S REPORT

- Update of complaints given.
- PRC Officer and Commissioner Lippman attended last night's City Council Worksession on Update on Police-Community Relations referrals.

7. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Budget, staffing, training updates, and other items.

- Last Sunday, the BPD played the FPD in a charity basketball game (and won for the 4th straight year).
- Reminder to sign up for the BPD's Nixle feed. Will be expanding social media presence onto Twitter. You can follow the Chief @BPDChiefMeehan.
- Year-to-date crime figures are mixed: increase in violent crimes, primarily assaults; decrease in property crimes, mostly burglaries.
- Budget: Working on mid-year update. No new money unless new revenue source or give up some other program.
- Meeting regularly with BUSD on violence prevention in schools.
- Bike thefts down 25% this year.
- Staffing: 170 sworn; incl. 3 in academy who graduate in July. Working hard to recruit; over 12 in background and current recruitment open till May 2.
- Would like feedback on April 9 Fair & Impartial Policing summit; Chief usually attends but was sick that day.

Questions:

- Body cams in budget? No, as we are in the 2nd year of a 2-year budget. Have given estimate to Council; year 1 cost est. \$400K; 5 years \$1.4 million. Will be on council's plate. Will seek grants but not many and very competitive.
- Is fact that BPD taking on more responsibility for persons with mental health issues impacting the budget? BPD not taking on more responsibilities, but numbers are way up in past 5 years (nationwide trend). City will soon have 5 more outreach workers to help the homeless get treatment; will be huge help.
- More info on Government Alliance on Race and Equity? Officials from various agencies go through year-long course. Chief is one of 10 people from COB participating. Goal: produce strategy to ensure equity in all gov't systems.
- What are deliverables from CPE agreement? Written report once/year. Stop data posted every 90 days on City's Open Data Portal.
- SFPD has Not on My Watch program – when officers see fellow officers misbehaving; how about BPD? We have policies that require reporting of misconduct, and failure to report is itself misconduct. Reports go to IA and fully investigated. Our officers don't like working around others who don't follow the rules.
- Aggregate data available from IA re number of complaints from PRC and non-PRC; how many per allegation, and disposition of each? Yes. (PRC Officer to email IA the data requested.)

8. OLD BUSINESS (discussion & action)

- a. Inventory of less-than-lethal munitions held by BPD.

Lt. Montgomery explained items on the list. No action taken.

9. NEW BUSINESS (discussion & action)

- a. Prosecution of Liberty City protesters

Motion that the PRC send a letter to the Council asking for permission to send a letter to the District Attorney stating that the PRC is aware of the prosecution of three defendants for violations of 647(e) arising from the so-called Liberty City encampment. Given the impacted resources in the Alameda County criminal court system and the cost of pursuing such a prosecution, it is the belief of the PRC that this prosecution is not in the interests of justice and the matter should be dismissed.

Moved/Seconded (Bernstein/Lippman) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Bernstein, Javier, Lippman, Smith, and Yampolsky.

Noes: Roberts, Waldman Abstain: Sherman Absent: Perezvelez

- b. Commendations of BPD employees July – December 2015

By general consent, the Commissioners singled out the following officers and other BPD staff for special recognition; and asked the PRC Officer to write a letter to the Chief informing him of such and to publish their names in the meeting minutes:

CSO Mia Medlin

Sgt. Cummings (twice)

Ofc. Tinney

Ofc. Keene

Ofc. Pierantoni

Ofc. Ramey

Ofc. Galvan (three times)

Ofc. Crews

Ofc. Libed

Ofc. Hammond

Ofc. Li

Lt. Montgomery

Ofc. Hunt

Ofc. Nash

Ofc. Phelps

Ofc. Shedoudy

PSD R. Johnson

PSD McClain

PSD Lopes

PSD Netz

PSD Cofereros

Ofc. Hammonds

PEO Randle

PEO Cooper

Ofc. Cerletti

Lt. Schofield

Ofc. Kaplan

Ofc. Andersen

Ofc. Ordaz

Ofc. Polliziani

Ofc. Neff

Additionally, several more officers to be identified; last but not least, **Ofc. Polliziani, Ofc. Singh, and the entire Berkeley Police Department** for their "sensitive," "compassionate," "professional," and "extraordinary" work in responding to the balcony collapse that claimed the lives of six Irish students.

- c. Progress report to Council on December 2014 recommendations

By general consent, the Commission agreed to empower the Chair to approve a progress report to the Council.

10. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (discussion & action)

- a. Body-Worn and Dash Cameras Subcommittee
Working to meet Council deadline; must have final Commission decision by May 25. Will agendaize for May 11 meeting.

By general consent, the Commission set a special meeting for May 16, 2016, 7:00 p.m. to consider a proposed Body-worn Camera General Order.

- b. General Orders C-64, etc. Subcommittee
Next meeting date May 3, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
Making good progress. Might have recommendation to full Commission in 6 weeks.
- c. December 7 & 8 Investigation Subcommittee
Next meeting date May 11, 2016, 5:30 p.m. Possible report to full Commission at May 25 meeting.
- d. Transgender G.O. Subcommittee
Draft new General Order will be on May 11 agenda.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ATTACHMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Copies of Commissioner Smith's evaluation of BPD's "Protest 101" were passed out.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

Closed Session

13. VOTE ON RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURE

Motion to approve Complaint #2392 for administrative closure, based on the staff's recommendation and complainant's desire.

Moved/Seconded (Sherman/Waldman) **Motion Carried**

Ayes: Bernstein, Javier, Lippman, Roberts, Sherman, Smith, Waldman, and Yampolsky.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perezvelez

End of Closed Session

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION VOTE

The vote to administratively close Complaint #2392 was announced.

15. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION BULLETIN



DATE: September 21, 2009

NUMBER: 220

SUBJECT: TRESPASSING/LODGING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY,
PUBLIC PROPERTY, AND PARKS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide direction regarding enforcement of laws governing trespass/lodging on private property (including store front alcoves), and lodging on public property and in parks.

STATE AND LOCAL STATUTES

Trespass

PC §602(m):

Statute: (Willful commission of a trespass by) Entering and occupying real property or structures of any kind without the consent of the owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession.

Discussion: Prohibits the entry and occupation of property of another. It should not be used in simple trespass cases because it has been interpreted by the courts to apply only to long-term squatters.

PC §602(o):

Statute: Refusing or failing to leave land, real property, or structures belonging to or lawfully occupied by another and not open to the general public, upon being requested to leave by (1) a peace officer at the request of the owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession, and upon being informed by the peace officer that he or she is acting at the request of the owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession, or (2) the owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession. The owner, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession shall make a separate request to the peace officer on each occasion when the peace officer's assistance in dealing with a trespass is requested. However, a single request for a peace officer's assistance may be made to cover a limited period of time not to exceed 30 days and identified by specific dates, during which there is a fire hazard or the owner, owner's agent or person in lawful possession is absent from the premises or property. In addition, a single request for a peace officer's assistance may be made for a period not to exceed six months when the premises or property is closed to the public and posted as being closed. However, this subdivision shall not be applicable to persons engaged in lawful labor union activities which are permitted to be carried out on the property by the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, Part 3.5 (commencing with Section 1140) of Division 2 of the Labor Code, or by the National Labor Relations Act. For purposes of this section, land, real property, or

*Highlighted text is new.

structures owned or operated by any housing authority for tenants as defined under Section 34213.5 of the Health and Safety Code constitutes property not open to the general public; however, this subdivision shall not apply to persons on the premises who are engaging in activities protected by the California or United States Constitution, or to persons who are on the premises at the request of a resident or management and who are not loitering or otherwise suspected of violating or actually violating any law or ordinance.

Discussion: Provides that it is a trespass for a person to refuse to leave private property not open to the public upon being requested to do so by the owner, the owner's agent or the occupants, or by a police officer acting on their behalf. A police officer making the request must inform the person that the officer is acting at the request of the owner, agent or occupant, **and must** give the person a chance to leave. **Further, the officer must** receive a specific case-by-case complaint from the owner/occupant prior to enforcement, unless one of the following two exceptions apply:

- A single request for police assistance with trespassers can cover a **thirty (30)** day period if there is a fire hazard on the property or the occupant will be absent; or,
- A single request for police assistance with trespassers can cover a **six (6)** month period if the property is closed to the public and posted as being closed.

BMC §13.52.010 [Entering upon posted property prohibited]:

Ordinance: It is unlawful for any person to enter or go upon or pass over or remain upon any land of another where the owner of said property, or the person entitled to the possession thereof for the time being, or the authorized agent of either, has posted or caused to be posted upon said land printed notices that the said land is private property and warning all persons from trespassing thereon.

Discussion: BMC §13.52.010 streamlines the elements of a **PC §602(o)** trespass violation. Under this section, if the property owner, agent or occupant posts "Private Property No Trespassing" signs, any person *entering* the property without consent is trespassing. There is no requirement regarding a complaint, request to leave, or refusal to leave. While there is no requirement for a complaint under BMC §13.52.010, as a matter of **protocol**, a "No Trespassing" letter, good for **one** year, should be on file when the officer is using BMC §13.52.010. If there is no letter on file, it is preferable for the officer to have a complaint from the owner/occupant with a Citizen Arrest form signed.

When enforcing BMC §13.52.010 officers should ensure that the property is adequately posted so that a reasonable person would know that they are trespassing. Large properties or properties with multiple entrances or access points should have multiple signs. The Community Services Bureau has a supply of "No Trespassing" signs that can be given to property owners who want to post their property.

While it is not required under BMC §13.52.010, it is often preferable for officers to warn persons and give them an opportunity to leave before citing them under this section. It is reasonable and sometimes faster to resolve the issue with a warning when

trespassers are cooperative and willing to leave the property on their own.

BMC §13.52.020 [Entering upon property after being personally forbidden to do so prohibited]:

Ordinance: It is unlawful for any person to enter or go upon or pass over or remain upon any land of another after being personally forbidden to do so by the owner of said property, or by the person entitled to the possession thereof for the time being, or the authorized agent of either. **The provisions of this section shall not apply when its application would:**

- (1) **Violate the Unruh Civil Rights Act, or any other provision of law relating to prohibited discrimination against any person on account of color, race, religion, creed, ancestry, or natural origin;**
- (2) **Violate laws allowing for peaceful labor picketing or other lawful labor activities; or**
- (3) **Impinge on the lawful exercise of the constitutionally protected rights of freedom of speech or assembly on outdoor property owned and controlled by a public entity during the time the property is open to the public.**

Discussion: BMC §13.52.020 is entirely separate from BMC §13.52.010. It defines trespass much the same way as PC §602(o), **but it applies in a broader set of circumstances for the following reasons:**

- BMC §13.52.020 prohibits “entering” after being warned; PC §602(o) only prohibits “refusing to leave” after being warned. Thus, under BMC §13.52.020, one warning is sufficient to prohibit a person from “entering” the property at any subsequent time, whereas under PC §602(o), a new warning and a refusal to leave is required each day prior to enforcement.
- Unlike PC §602(o), a “No Trespassing” letter requesting assistance will serve as a standing complaint for one year.
- Unlike PC §602(o), the officer is not required to state that he or she is acting on behalf of the owner or occupant.

Like State trespass laws, violations of BMC §13.52.010 and §13.52.020 are misdemeanors. However, BMC §1.20.020 provides that these violations may be charged as infractions at the discretion of the enforcing officer. Officers should consider citing these offenses as infractions, unless the trespasser has had multiple prior citations or other circumstances justify charging as a misdemeanor.

Lodging / Public Property

PC §647(e):

Statute: (Every person who commits any of the following acts is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor:) Who lodges in any building, structure, vehicle, or place,

whether public or private, without the permission of the owner or person entitled to the possession or in control of it.

Discussion: During their **November 27, 2007** meeting, the City Council approved **Resolution No. 63,906** to amend Resolution No. **61,042** which adopted standard operating procedures for enforcement of **PC §647(e)**. The revised Resolution now provides only one verbal warning, not two, is required before taking enforcement action, and no complaint is required. Enforcement of **PC §647(e)** is a low priority between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., except when a complaint has been lodged, when there has been notification of lodging without consent, or when there is a history of chronic problems of lodging without consent at a specific location.

Based on the interpretation of the City Attorney's Office, **PC §647(e)** prohibits lodging outside overnight on city property, such as sidewalks, parks and other strips of city land. While **PC §647(e)** applies to parklands, there is another BMC section that is more specific to parks (see Park Curfew Violations below).

PC §647(e) does not prohibit sleeping on public property during the daytime. Thus, it is lawful for persons to sleep in City parks during the hours that the park is open. Rather, **PC §647(e)** applies when there is probable cause to believe that the person is lodging outside for the entire night on public property. Officers should consider taking enforcement action for violations of **PC §647(e)** only when the person is on non-park property owned or controlled by the City such as public sidewalks and small strips of City land and there is probable cause to believe the person is camping.

Factors to consider in deciding whether to cite for violation of **PC §647(e)** include whether the person:

Is on or in a sleeping bag or bedroll;

Is sleeping;

Has other belongings clustered around and/or otherwise appears to be staying for the entire night;

Appears or is reported to have been at the location for an extended period of time; and/or,

There is a history of continuous or chronic violations of **PC §647(e)** at a particular location or by a particular individual.

Prior to any arrest or citation for **PC §647(e)**, the officer shall issue one verbal warning as directed by Council Resolution. **A complaint is no longer required prior to enforcement.**

Keep in mind that the Council Resolution only applies to public areas. If an officer responds to a citizen complaint regarding private property where the owner/authorized agent demands a citizen arrest, that request will be honored in accordance with State law and Departmental policy.

Trespass and Lodging / Private Property, Storefront Alcoves

A storefront alcove recessed from the public sidewalk is private property. Therefore, persons may be prohibited from lodging in an alcove overnight when the elements of one of the trespass laws outlined above are present. Commercial property owners or occupants who wish to have persons removed from their alcoves when the business is closed may post "No Trespassing" signs on a door or window facing the alcove. This sign may also be part of their "Closed" sign. Posting such a sign, along with a trespass letter on file, allows officers to take action and enforce BMC §13.52.010 without case-by-case complaints by the owner or occupants.

Trespass only occurs when there is a complaint or a no trespassing sign. If a person has permission from the owner or occupant to lodge in an alcove, the person in the alcove is not violating any existing law. Officers should be aware that some property owners give individuals permission to sleep in their alcoves.

Lodging / City Park Curfew Violations

BMC §6.32.020 [Park Hours]:

Ordinance: (a) No person shall enter upon or otherwise remain within City parks, or portions thereof, between the hours or for the period specifically posted as closure hours at the entrance to the particular park and, where applicable, adjacent to any portion of a park being closed.

(b) Where no hours are posted, a park shall be closed between the hours of ten p.m. and six a.m., except that parks equipped with user operated lights shall be closed between the hours of eleven p.m. and six a.m.

Discussion: Under BMC §6.32.020, all City parks are closed for all purposes at night (usually from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) and a person sleeping in a park during those hours may be cited under BMC §6.30.020. BMC §6.32.020 only applies to City parks.

Whenever possible, officers should make every effort to coordinate services with **Health and Human Services (HHS) Department** workers and Parks and Recreation Department staff in taking a team approach to providing services to those who are camping/lodging in City parks. HHS workers will often make several visits to warn those who have set up long-term encampments in City parks before referring the matter to the police for enforcement.

REQUIRED PRE-ARREST WARNING

Officers are required by Council policy to give a warning when enforcing **Penal Code §647(e) PC [lodging in public]**. According to law, **a warning must also be given before enforcing** trespassing on unposted private property (**ref. PC §602(o) and Berkeley Municipal Code §13.52.020**). Whenever practical, officers should also give a warning when enforcing a trespassing violation on posted private property **under BMC §13.52.010**.

Gaining compliance through warnings and referrals is part of the City's social service approach to **responding to complaints regarding** the indigent, mentally ill, and chronic substance abusers.

SOCIAL SERVICE REFERRAL

There have been persistent and increasing complaints from property owners about people trespassing on private property without their consent. There are also persistent complaints from homeless people that when the shelters are full there is no place that they can legally sleep in Berkeley. In keeping with the City's policy to address homelessness issues from a social service perspective, whenever possible, referrals should be made to the Health and Human Services Department.

There are two programs that provide outreach services to the indigent, the mentally ill, and chronic substance abusers that are homeless in Berkeley: **Homeless Outreach and the Mobile Crisis Team.**

Homeless Outreach: Two full-time Homeless Outreach Workers are available during the day, Monday – Friday. **[Note: the new outreach worker may have evening and Saturday hours; still being determined].** These workers assist individuals by making contacts in the field, at shelters, and at the Multi-Agency Service Center, **which** offers counseling, emergency services, and makes referrals to other appropriate providers. **The best way to reach the Homeless Outreach Workers is by telephone:**

Eve Ahmed, (510)502-1829


Jeff Buell, (510)542-3229

Via the Mental Health Division, **(510)981-5254.**

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MCT): The MCT is available from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily. They conduct follow-up on their own caseload and respond to mental health crisis situations as they occur. They also provide services, counseling, and make necessary referrals. The MCT is available through the police radio.

Both Homeless Outreach Workers and MCT members can provide information to residential and commercial property owners regarding services available for the homeless, as well as trespass laws and enforcement options.

For the purpose of this Bulletin, Homeless Outreach Workers and the Mobile Crisis Team will be referred to as "HHS Workers".


Douglas N. Hambleton
Chief of Police

References: Penal Code §§602(m), 602(o) and 647(e)
Berkeley Municipal Code §§1.20, 6.32 and 13.52
City of Berkeley Council Resolution No. 63,906

Proposed General Order for Berkeley Police Department: Interactions With Individuals Identifying As Transgender

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Berkeley Police Department (BPD) recognizes and places a high priority on the rights of all people. This policy establishes a procedure for handling interactions with transgender people.

DEFINITION

Gender Identity - One's internal, deeply held sense of gender. Unlike gender expression (see below), gender identity is not visible to others.

Gender Expression - External manifestations of gender; expressed through one's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, or body characteristics.

Transgender (adj.) - An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. People under the transgender umbrella may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including transgender.

INTERACTIONS WITH TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

BPD officers and employees are to interact with transgender people and the transgender community in a manner that is professional, respectful, and courteous.

Officers are cautioned not to treat a person's transgender status or appearance as a basis of suspicion or as evidence of a crime.

Officers shall follow the policies governing interactions with transgender people when either of these two conditions is met:

- (a) A person explicitly informs the officer(s) that the person is a transgender person.
- (b) An officer has good reason to believe that the person is a transgender person. Good reason may be based on apparent intention of gender appearance and presentation; reasonable observation; background checks; third party information; prior interaction, and/or routine policing procedures.

If gender expression does not clearly indicate a transgender person's identity, an officer shall politely and respectfully ask how the person wishes to be addressed. For example, an officer may ask a transgender person which name and pronoun the person prefers, recognizing that the requested pronoun might be other than he or she.

When a person self-identifies as a transgender person, officers should not question this identity or ask about the person's transition status. An officer should not engage in any argument, disagreement, or debate regarding a person's self-identification as a transgender person. If an officer does question such self-

identification, or asks about a person's transgender status, that Officer shall provide a compelling and professional reason for having done so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of a BPD Police Report, at minimum.

An officer should not ask questions or make statements about a transgender person's genitalia, breasts, or transition status. If an officer does ask such questions or make such statements, that officer shall provide a compelling and professional reason for having done so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of a BPD Police Report, at minimum.

Whether or not the name on a person's driver's license or identification card coincides with the person's gender identity, an officer shall address or refer to the person by the name that the person has used to identify him or herself. An officer shall also use the pronouns consistent with the name provided by the person.

This department recognizes and places a high priority on the rights of all individuals guaranteed under the Constitution and the laws of this state. Under no circumstances may an officer frisk, search, or otherwise touch any person for the purpose of obtaining information about that person's gender status. An officer shall comply with all existing laws and BPD policies regarding search and seizure (Lexipol Policy 322). Under no circumstances shall transgender people be subject to more invasive search procedures than non-transgender people.

403.1 DETERMINATION OF LEGAL NAME

In the event a transgender person's legal name is required, the person's legal name should be obtained in the following manner:

Absent exigent circumstances, an officer should ask the person for his or her legal name in a one-on-one situation. If the contact is in a group environment, the officer should ask the person to step outside the group to obtain the legal name and avoid "outing" the person.

An officer shall only ask a transgender person for his or her legal name in the presence of others if there are exigent circumstances requiring the officer to do so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of an MPT, at minimum.

403.2 MEDICAL TREATMENT OF TRANSGENDER ARRESTEES

Whenever a transgender person who is detained by or in the custody of BPD requires or expresses a need for medical attention or medication (including, but not limited to hormone therapy), an officer shall respond to and address the need with the same urgency and respect as required in connection with any other medical need, illness, or injury experienced by any other detainee or arrestee.

403.3 PROCESSING OF TRANSGENDER ARRESTEES

Appearance-related items, including, but not limited to, prosthetics, clothes, wigs, or

make-up should not be confiscated or removed from transgender people unless such items present a safety hazard, impede the administration of medical attention, or are needed for **evidentiary** reasons (Lexipol Policy 902). If an officer confiscates or removes a transgender person's appearance-related items, that officer shall provide a compelling and professional reason for having done so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of a BPD Police Report, at minimum.

403.4 JUVENILE TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

All interactions with juvenile transgender individuals shall conform to the mandates set out by this policy. This policy does not affect any other provisions outlined in applicable directives and laws covering the processing and handling of juveniles.

403.5 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Under no circumstances should an officer disclose that a person is transgender to non-police personnel or to other non-relevant BPD personnel. If an officer does disclose such information as described, that officer shall provide a compelling and professional reason for having done so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of a BPD Police Report, at minimum.

403.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS AND DATA

If a person has self-identified as transgender, this information may be recorded in public documents. If the person has not self-identified as transgender, this information should not be recorded in public documents. If an officer does record such information in any public document, that officer shall provide a compelling and professional reason for having done so. The reason(s) shall be properly documented in writing in the form of a BPD Police Report, at minimum.

403.7 RECORD - KEEPING AND DATA TRACKING

All BPD forms and reports (both paper and computerized/digital) which record the gender of a person shall be revised to include transgender identity.

BPD shall establish and maintain records concerning the number of calls involving transgender people and the corresponding police service response. The Chief of Police, or his/her designee, shall report to the Police Review Commission annually about the number of calls involving transgender people and the corresponding police service response.


All case reports, other reports and non-charging documents shall refer to a transgender person's name as shown on official documents. The person's preferred name shall be listed as an alias or, "Also Known As," (AKA). Preferred gender pronouns should be used in the narrative.

403.8 TRAINING

Training on interactions with transgender people and review of this Policy shall be conducted as directed by the Personnel and Training Section.

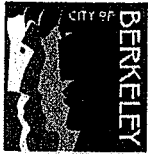
All BPD members will be scheduled to attend a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) or other departmentally approved training on the subject of interactions with transgender people. Each sworn member of this Department who receives initial training will thereafter be required to complete an approved refresher course, as deemed necessary, in order to stay apprised of changing cultural conditions.

May 4, 2016

TO: PRC Commissioners
 FROM: Katherine J. Lee, PRC Officer 
 RE: Prioritizing requests to BPD

You prioritized the various requests we had pending to the BPD on February 10. Statuses were updated in mid-March, but no re-prioritizing has been done since February. Chief Meehan asked where your March 31 letter regarding a revised Right to Watch general order stands. This is for discussion at your May 11 meeting.

Date/form of request	Request	Status/Notes
<i>Not prioritized, since BPD had set dates for return (except last item – new):</i>		
9.5.15 letter	Right to Watch G.O.: please revert to old while reviewing the revised policy	BPD submitted revised G.O. for 2.24.16 meeting; further discussion 3.9 and 3.23.
3.31.16 letter	Consider adopting the SFPD G.O. 5.07, Rights of Onlookers	<i>PRC to prioritize</i>
Mid-2015	McKinley Ave. staging – follow-up	Capt. Greenwood to present at 3.23.16 meeting. COMPLETED
4.13.16 meeting	Provide Revised G.O. U-4, Unusual Occurrences, for review	<i>PRC to prioritize</i>
3.9.16 Oral	Liberty City activity – PRC decides to hear BPD presentation	BPD to present at meeting – 5.11.16
4.27.16 Oral	Statistics from IA: complaints they receive from PRC v. received from other sources; allegations; disposition	<i>PRC to prioritize</i>
GROUP I		
12.9.15 oral	Center for Policing Equity analysis of stop data – when?	At 2.24.16 meeting, Capt. Harris said CPE analysis should be ready in July.
1.13.16 oral	G.O. C-1 – request for annual report, as required under the G.O., for the past 3 years.	BPD submitted for 3.9.16 meeting. COMPLETED
2.3.16 letter	Provide inventory of less-than-lethal weapons and munitions	BPD submitted for 4.13 meeting. COMPLETED
GROUP II		
12.9.15 oral	Analysis of new beat plan – when?	At 12.9.15 meeting, Chief said would be another 4 – 6 months.
1.5.16 letter	3 new ordinances to “improve conditions on community sidewalks”: any plan to issue G.O., T&I Bulletin, or Captain’s Instructions?	
GROUP III		
8.27.15 letter	Smoking Ordinance/dissemination of info to officers re new ordinances	At 12.9.15 meeting, PRC did not include in top 10 priorities.
1.13.16 oral	Cost analysis to carry out recommendations in Dec. 2014 post-incident review?	
<i>Note: This list does not include requests related to Council directive to PRC and BPD to work on recommendations following review of December 6, 2014 response; assume high priority.</i>		



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM



To: The Police Review Commission Date 4/4/15 (16)
From: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police *M.M.*
Subject: Status of post-incident review recommendations nos. 1, 14, 15, 31 and 32

In response to the commission's query concerning what steps BPD had decided on regarding the five recommendations that are not part of the BPD/PRC policy subcommittee, please see my responses listed under each of the recommendations.

Recommendation #1

We recommend the Department get clarity on the availability of regional radio interoperability for common encrypted radio channels to improve communications with mutual aid partners during large scale events.

We have contacted the EBRCS manager and learned that each of the participating agencies has their own encryption key, specific to their agency. To have one encrypted channel to be shared and accessible by multiple agencies would require each agency to purchase a secondary encryption key, matching the encryption for that one channel. The cost to each agency requesting a secondary encryption key would be \$140.00/per radio. Agencies not agreeing to do so would not be able to utilize the multi-agency encrypted channel during a Mutual Aid Response. Currently some of the other agencies are unwilling to purchase a secondary encryption key.

Our options for future demonstrations requiring mutual aid are to either continue to use Berkeley Pathfinders, embedded with mutual aid responders, to communicate with the Department Operations Center on an encrypted channel or for all involved agencies to use a non-encrypted mutual aid channel.

Recommendation #14

Explore technology that can improve the quality and timeliness of information available to decision makers.

This recommendation pertains to overhead intelligence currently banned (City's helicopter policy, drone moratorium). A draft policy on the use of drones is being written for submission to the City Council at Mayor Bates' request.

Recommendation #15

Consider proposing changes to the City Council Resolution 51,408 – N.S., to permit the use of helicopters in instances of significant civil unrest.

This topic deserves more discussion with the Commission.

Recommendation #31

We recommend the Department invest in quality video cameras, live stream capability and video capture software to improve situational awareness.

Based on the PRC's reaction to this recommendation at its report writing workshops, I want to discuss the issues with the Commission and hopefully gain the PRC's support prior to purchasing this needed equipment.

Recommendation #32

The Department should investigate the use of body armor to be worn underneath a uniform of the day, to protect officers from projectiles while minimizing the projection of force to protestors.

We have contacted one company that makes this type of equipment. They sent us a sample for us to evaluate. There were some discomfort issues with the sample. The cost to purchase this brand was significant. We postponed further research until the next fiscal year.

Mental Health 911

Police are increasingly on the frontlines of dealing with people with psychiatric problems. But they're often not adequately trained to de-escalate potentially violent encounters.

By *Holly McDede*

Mary Hogden was outside a New Mexico convenience store in 2004 when police officers approached her. She was homeless and in the middle of a psychiatric episode. One of the cops asked to search her, saying she was loitering near the store, but she refused his request. "The police officer became very angry and upset," she recalled in a recent interview. "He ended up throwing me on the ground, putting my hands behind my back with handcuffs. He dragged me across the parking lot. He hurt me. He psychically hurt me."

Later, Hogden went to an abandoned trailer and attempted to set it ablaze. The officers who arrived on the scene took her to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. After she was released, she hitchhiked to the Bay Area. But not long after arriving here, she had another breakdown. Once again, the first person to evaluate her mental health and take her to the emergency room was a cop.

Hogden's story is becoming increasingly common. Over the past few decades, cuts to mental health services and programs have put police on the frontlines of dealing with people with psychiatric problems. Law enforcement data shows that police interactions with mentally ill people have skyrocketed in recent years, particularly in the East Bay. And sometimes those encounters turn deadly.

In 2015, a quarter of the nearly 1,000 people killed by police officers in the United States had a history of mental illness, according to a *Washington Post* analysis. The large numbers of killings by cops nationwide have also highlighted the lack of police training. Currently, the typical American police officer receives only eight hours of training on how to de-escalate tense situations, and just eight hours learning about dealing with people who have

mental health issues. By contrast, police cadets receive an average of sixty hours of training on how to handle and shoot guns.

In recent years, some police departments have been working harder to teach cops how to prevent volatile situations from escalating. And a new state law requires California police academy recruits to receive at least fifteen hours of behavioral health training. Prior to the law's passage, they were required to have only six.

These days, Hogden helps provide training to East Bay police officers on coping with and helping people with mental health problems. Experts say that more such training is necessary, but they warn that most departments are still not doing nearly enough to prevent violent interactions between police and the mentally ill.

Following the nationwide shutdown of mental health hospitals in the Sixties and early Seventies, police began encountering more severely mentally ill individuals on the street. In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act gave police in California the power to take an individual to the hospital against his or her will if a cop believes a person is dangerous.

By the Eighties, many mental health experts viewed deinstitutionalization as a major failure. According to estimates in the late Eighties from the National Institute of Mental Health, between 125,000 to 300,000 severely mentally ill individuals were living on the streets.

One shooting-death in Memphis, Tennessee in 1987 brought the issue into sharp focus. Memphis police responded to a call about a mentally ill man with a large knife cutting himself and threatening his family. Officers arrived and then shot and killed the man. Community members demanded a change in the way police responded to and understood mental illness. One year later, the city introduced Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), a forty-hour crash course on de-escalation techniques and dealing with people with mental illnesses.

"It takes a crisis before people wake up. So things go along, and until something bad happens, people don't put pressure to change," said Thomas Kirchberg, a director at Crisis Intervention Training International, a nonprofit devoted to spreading CIT training to other

agencies. "We go along until it's on our front door step, and then we have to do something about it."

Other police departments have slowly followed, and now more than 2,500 law enforcement agencies nationwide offer the Memphis model of CIT training. But there are still no federal or state laws requiring CIT training, and many states only have one or two counties that provide the training on a voluntary basis. In 2001, the San Francisco Police Department adopted its own version of CIT training. San Mateo County followed in 2005, and by 2011, Alameda County launched its CIT training course.

But it wasn't until last year, when the *Washington Post* and the *Guardian* began reporting the number of people shot by police in the United States each month that state legislatures started to seriously push for mandatory mental health training requirements for police. Last year, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 29, which requires field training officers to receive twelve hours of behavioral health training. Separate legislation — SB 11 — increased mental health training hours in police academies from six to fifteen hours.

"It's just a way of reducing problems like we saw in Ferguson, in Chicago, in Cleveland — all those situations we read about where we wonder why the officers acted the way they did," said Senator Jim Beall, D-Campbell, referring to officer-involved killings. Beall sponsored the two Senate bills. "In the academy, you weed out bad candidates, so we're hoping to weed out candidates who are not up to dealing with people with mental health issues."

Beall said in an interview that he wanted to double the number of mental health training hours required in his legislation but that the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or POST, which sets the requirements, opposed his plan.

In response to my email, Ralph Brown, legislative analyst and spokesperson for POST, explained the group's reasoning: "The hours issue equates to finance. Senator Beall did not offer a funding mechanism for the additional hours. To add more hours without a funding source would be similar to asking you to work more hours without paying you overtime."

And despite the increase in the mandated hours for police training on mental and behavioral health, California still does not require CIT training. Currently, only about one-quarter of local police departments nationwide offer an in-depth CIT training course,

according to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics and the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions.

But the number of police encounters with the mentally ill continues to soar. From 2009 to 2014, the number of mental health-related calls made to the Oakland Police Department jumped by roughly 50 percent. And Police Officer Jeffrey Shannon, Berkeley's CIT training coordinator, said the number of calls to the Berkeley Police Department that resulted in an involuntary psychiatric hold shot up by 43 percent from 2009 to 2014.

Mental health experts attribute the rising numbers to a combination of too few hospital beds, not enough funding for mental health services and programs, and a rise in Alameda County's population. According to US Census estimates, the county added 100,000 residents from 2010 to 2014. But the number of available beds at Alameda County's psychiatric hospital, John George, has stayed at 69.

"The population has increased, so there are more mentally ill people, but [fewer] treatment beds than there were thirty years ago," said Millie Swafford, former criminal justice mental health director for Alameda County. "They don't have enough beds for people, so they have to figure, 'Who can we justify keeping, and who can we just let go?'"

Alameda County's John George Psychiatric Hospital has a 15.8-percent admission rate, so the vast majority of individuals who are taken by police to the facility end up getting released without any help waiting for them when they get out.

"From the law enforcement perspective, we're in the community, trying to get people help, and somehow the system kicks them right back out again," said Doria Neff, an Oakland police officer and Alameda County CIT coordinator. "It's our job to get them to the hospital, and if that doesn't work, we need to take them to the hospital again."

The increase in mental health calls to the Berkeley Police Department also correlates with a significant rise in the number of homeless people in the city. According to a survey from nonprofit homeless advocacy organization EveryOne Home, Berkeley's unsheltered homeless population swelled by 53 percent from 2009 to 2013.

And many of these homeless individuals are mentally ill. According to EveryOne Home, the number of homeless people with mental illness in Alameda County increased by 35 percent from 2011 to 2013, rising from 818 to 1,106.

"For folks with serious mental illness, if they do lose their housing, returning to housing is much more challenging, even if we have subsidies targeting that population," said Elaine deColigny, executive director of EveryOne Home. "There are the personal challenges they struggle with — plus landlord hesitancy to rent to them."

Berkeley resident Patricia Fontana-Narell knows this well. Her son has been homeless for the past eight years, largely the result of his bipolar disorder. Because he rejects treatment, the only people she knows who can help her son get treatment are the police. "I've had doctors tell me, 'If you really want him to get help, why don't you get your son arrested? Then you can get him help.' There's nothing for him in the mental health system."

East Bay police departments have responded to the increase in mental health related calls by slowly accepting their dual role as law enforcement agencies and social service providers. Officers in the Oakland Police Academy now get twenty hours of training in mental health issues. They can also take an optional CIT training course available for all officers in Alameda County nearly every month.

In the forty-hour CIT course, officers learn to de-escalate situations with mentally ill people who pose a danger to themselves and others. They also learn about the different mental health services offered throughout the county. In the CIT course, there are classes on cultural responsiveness, excited delirium, and making effective 5150 decisions (5150 refers to the section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code that allows law enforcement officers and healthcare workers to hold a person against his or her will when they deem a person to be dangerous).

Since December, the Berkeley Police Department has been training its officers in an abbreviated, eight-hour version of the CIT course. And the Oakland Police Department recently started a pilot program called the Mobile Evaluation Team, or MET, in which police officers team up with a clinician to respond to mental health emergencies. Right now, the

MET team is able to respond to six to eight emergency calls per day. But the team is overwhelmed, because OPD receives roughly thirty mental health-related calls each day. Contra Costa County, meanwhile, has a Mental Health Evaluation Team, called MHET, but it's a follow-up team that arrives after a crisis is over rather than responding to the emergency.

These pilot programs are extremely limited in terms of how many individuals they can reach each day. That's why many police agencies want all their officers to take the forty-hour CIT training course. The local training, which is held in Oakland, is in such high demand that each police agency in the county can only send three officers at a time. Oakland, the county's biggest department, gets to send five. "I need a ballroom with one hundred seats to be able to accommodate everyone," Neff said. "Right now, we're heavily, heavily overbooked. We have a lot of people who can't even get into the training from our own county, let alone outside of the county."

So far, roughly 130 members of OPD have taken the course. At the current rate of five officers who complete the training each month, it would take about a decade to train the entire 700-plus member department.

Michael Leonesio, a former police officer, Taser safety expert, and use-of-force consultant for various Bay Area police departments, said he doesn't think agencies are committed to the training, because if they were, there would be more funding for it. "Unfortunately, in a lot of cases, it's just looked at as liability insurance," he said. "So they can say, 'Yeah, we sent a CIT officer [on a mental health-related call], and yeah it went bad, but it wasn't for a lack of trying.'"

Defense attorney Michael Haddad, who has been involved in a number of deadly police use-of-force cases in the Bay Area, said he doesn't think police response to the mentally ill has gotten much better, even with more training. "It's not something exotic, or like we're asking something too much of police," Haddad said. "Paramedics, social workers, special ed teachers — they all receive similar training, and it works. There's the toolkit analogy, but if the only tool you ever use is a gun, it's not doing much good at the bottom of the toolkit."

When Mario Woods was shot by police officers late last year while he was armed with a knife in San Francisco's Bayview District, three of the five officers on the scene had received

CIT training. According to San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr, more training wouldn't have changed the officers' response. "You can't expect an officer, CIT trained or not ... if the person is actively engaging in seriously injuring, or attempting to kill somebody, you've got to make sure that stops first," Suhr said.

Some police watchdog groups also don't think that more training is the solution. In fact, they believe police should not be the first responders to calls involving people with mental health issues. "I don't think we should be relying on police to deliver mental health services," said Andrea Pritchett, an activist with Berkeley Copwatch. "I believe police need training to manage a difficult situation, but I don't think they'll ever be a replacement for a professional therapist or a professional mental health expert."

Another drawback of police training is that there is no concrete evidence that it actually works. Amy Watson, an associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago who has been studying Crisis Intervention Training for years, acknowledges that there hasn't been evidence-based research to prove that it's effective. Nonetheless, she contends that CIT is a best practice model for law enforcement. She noted that research in some police agencies has associated CIT training with reduction in arrests and police use of force for people with mental illness. "It may reduce use of force, depending on what study you look at," Watson said. "So, it seems like a reasonable way to go."

Jim Bueermann, president of the Police Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving policing through research, added that he thinks police have no choice but to embrace CIT, because there is no better training program available. "The police don't have the option of waiting years to study a program," he said. "People are calling 911, and the police have to respond. You don't have the luxury to wait years for a scientific evaluation. If CIT is the best model you can find, then you use it."

Joel Fay, a retired police officer who has taught CIT classes in about fifteen counties in California, said he knows it's not the perfect solution, but argues that there are many issues beyond police training that are playing a role in making the situation worse. "What about the politicians who refuse to make mental health laws tougher so we can hold people longer? What about the substance abuse programs that don't have enough beds?" he asked.

"All those systems have failed, and we'll keep responding, but unless the system changes, the number of calls will continue, and there will still be bad outcomes, even with the best of training."

Mary Hogden, however, is convinced that more police training will help. During training sessions in Oakland she gives police officers tips on how respond to a person in crisis.

"Talk to me in a calm voice, and tell me what you're going to do to me, step by step," she explained to officers during a recent training session. "Ask me what's going on. Sometimes people in crisis can't understand what the officer is saying. We have so much noise going on in our brain. Don't take what I say personally."

Lee, Katherine

From: Lee, Katherine
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 4:37 PM
To: 'mhatheway@rialtocinemas.com'
Subject: FW: Any interest in talking after a screening?
Attachments: Peace-Officer_Discussion-Guide.pdf

Categories: For Agenda

Dear Melissa,

I am staff to the Berkeley Police Review Commission. Thank you for your request for a PRC commissioner to serve on a panel following the screening of "Peace Officer." I'm sure there would be some interest in participating. Unfortunately, the PRC has a regularly scheduled meeting on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. (They meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays most months.) I will, however, forward your email to the commissioners to let them know of your invitation.

Sincerely,
Kathy

Katherine J. Lee
Police Review Commission Officer
City of Berkeley
510.981.4960

Our offices are on the 1st floor of 1947 Center Street as of April 4, 2016.

From: PRC (Police Review Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Lee, Katherine <KLee@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: FW: Any interest in talking after a screening?

From: Melissa Hatheway [mailto:mhatheway@rialtocinemas.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 1:44 PM
To: PRC (Police Review Commission) <prcmailbox@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
Subject: Any interest in talking after a screening?

Hello Comission,

Rialto Cinemas Elmwood (2966 College Ave at Ashby in Berkeley) presents a monthly series of free screenings under the auspices of PBS and ITVS, the films are documentaries about issues of the day and always involve a followup discussion with the audience. Our May screening is called Peace Officer and happen on Wednesday May 11 at 7pm.

Peace Officer is the story of William "Dub" Lawrence, a former sheriff who established and trained Utah's first SWAT team — only to watch in horror as that same unit killed his son-in-law Brian Wood in a controversial standoff years later. Driven by an obsessive sense of mission, Lawrence uses his investigative skills to uncover the truth about that incident and other officer-involved shootings in his community, while tackling larger questions about the changing face of peace officers nationwide.

The film will be 60 - 70 minutes long and followed by a 30 minute discussion. There is a discussion guide which I have attached and a screening link.

We would love to have a member of the commission on our panel, please let me know if there is any interest at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best,

Melissa Hatheway
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