



CITY OF OAKLAND  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
CITIZENS' POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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Sean P. Quinlan, Interim Executive Director

January 23, 2009

Chief Wayne Tucker  
Oakland Police Department  
Oakland, CA

Re: Mediation Policy Concerns

Greetings Chief Tucker:

At our most recent CPRB meeting ( held on January 15, 2009, ) while discussing a complaint that was being proposed for administrative closure, we were shocked and distressed to discover that OPD Officers who are named in complaints with CPRB are not required to make themselves available for a mediation meeting with the complainant – even though the complainant is willing!

How can this be? As I'm sure you know, CPRB averages approximately 70 -90 cases at any given time, and due to budget cut-backs, is struggling to investigate the load of complaints. Mediation for lower priority cases is an efficient, effective means to handle many complaints, and has been encouraged by Board Members in recent meetings. When we were informed that while the complainant was willing to meet with named officer for mediation – all he wanted was an explanation as to why the officer acted as he did ( this is most likely the case in many lower-priority complaints,) we were outraged to find that the officer named in the complaint declined to meet!

Given the temperature of Oakland with regard to citizens and Police recently (particularly in light of what seems to be a daily revelation in media of OPD scandals,) it seems that it would be in OPD's best public image to have its officers make themselves available when asked to meet with their complainants in mediation. This can only be a win/win situation for Oakland.

We urge you to implement this policy immediately to ensure a positive public relation image in a critical time. We hopefully await your response.

Very truly yours,

Cara Kopowski, Chair, CPRB

ATTACHMENT

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CPRB Commissioners:

Tina Allen, Vice-Chair, CPRB

Matthew Hudson, Commissioner, CPRB

Risha Jamison, Commissioner, CPRB

Donna Duhe, Commissioner, CPRB

Susan Shawl, Commissioner, CPRB

Cc: Larry Reid, Chair, Public Safety Committee

Ronald Dellums, Mayor, City of Oakland

Dom Arotzarena, President, OPOA