

On Jan 28, 2019, at 7:20 PM, sheila sl wrote:

RE: Closed session for expanding the role of the IPA

Dear Mayor and City Council

A new year offers a new opportunity for the Council to hear from the community as we call to elevate trust and transparency in our growing, world-class city with an expansion of the role of the IPA.

This is a moment for the Council to reflect on the multicultural PACT leaders and our partners who cried out for deeper trust with police as a way to co-create a safe, prosperous and peaceful city. For over two years, PACT has been working with the Mayor, City Council, SJPD, IPA, SJPOA, many partner organizations, and hundreds of community members to strengthen trust, safety and justice for community and police, including expanding the role of the IPA Office.

We understand the Council will hear a report in closed session on negotiations with the SJPOA for expanding the role of the IPA. PACT would be remiss if in this moment we did not emphasize the importance of intentional language in the finalized document, particularly **access to records and whose decisions the IPA will be contingent on to access those records.**

PACT's key priorities for expanding the role of the IPA are:

1) The IPA should review all IA cases including (but not limited to) Department Initiated Investigations: all Officer-involved shootings (OISs); and incidents involving serious use of force likely to result in serious bodily injury, and in-custody deaths

Review of all IA cases should include access to (administrative vs. criminal) investigations, not just reports after the investigations have been completed.

2) The IPA should have access to all records of police operations and interactions with the public; use of force, stops and arrests, Body Worn Camera footage, responses to Domestic Violence calls, etc. Essentially all records not protected by POBOR.

We are also interested in following up on the discussion about creating a role for the IPA and community in policing policy-making.

The Council can also gain greater insight on police incidents that occur in their districts if this language is allowed to shape the IPA's role. This can offer a pivotal advantage to the IPA's accessibility to records **is so that they can report back to the Council with greater depth and reliable data points.** If the IPA's access to records becomes contingent upon anyone else but the Council it follows that the IPA would actually fall under that entity's jurisdiction. As a result, the IPA becomes dependent rather than independent. This renders the IPA less useful to the Council and to the community as a whole, when it comes to true police transparency.

For instance, the entire community was stunned at the Christmas incident that lead to the death of the unarmed, youthful Jenny Vasquez after an encounter with SJPd. It magnifies the need for a review of practices regarding use of force and accountability. Yet, **we must not limit the IPA's access to records simply to serious use of force.** It is imperative that we understand as a city where the injury between police and particular communities begins; this is typically long before someone is under threat of death or significantly physically impaired.

In light of those like Jenny Vasquez, whom we consider our angels, we want to address policing in a deeper sense at the beginning of the systemic process, rather than at the end of the process when a life has been lost.

All the best,
Sheila Dawkins for PACT's Beloved Community Team