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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



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Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan Holds Press Conference About Crowd Management Improvements

Oakland, CA - On April 23, 2012, at 12:00 pm, Oakland's Police Chief Howard Jordan was joined by Mayor Jean Quan, City Administrator Deanna Santana, select Oakland Police Department command staff and members of the community during a press conference to discuss improvements to Crowd Management policy and training. Chief Jordan told a room of reporters that he has initiated significant reforms regarding how the Department approaches crowd management during large demonstrations. The Chief said, "These reforms are a critical component of the ongoing efforts to reform the Department. My Department is committed to becoming a national leader in crowd management by reforming and improving the Department's policies and practices."

The Chief acknowledged how it is the Department's duty to protect public safety, and at the same time balance the free speech rights of individual protestors with the rights of non-protesting residents.

The Chief announced a series of new procedures – some already underway - that are important elements of comprehensive reforms.

Better Crowd Management Training

- The Department has provided its entire command staff crowd management training from independent subject matter experts, The Frazier Group.
- Officers and supervisors have received additional training on crowd management movement and tactics.
- By the end of this month, every officer will have received training.
- Updating policy to reflect best practices contained in future California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) crowd management policy.

Community Involvement

- The Department has formed a community advisory working group to review, and make recommendations to, the Police Department's crowd management policy.

Media and First Amendment Rights

- Mayor Quan and her staff, and Police Department staff, have met with individual journalists, photographers, and their journalistic organizations and representatives.
- Training will be provided regarding media relations and press related First Amendment Rights.
- By the end of this month, every officer will have received training.

Use of Mutual Aid

- The Department will be participating in tabletop exercises with outside agencies. We have improved how we track their movement and uses of force, and have met with them to discuss our crowd management policies.

Use of Force Investigations

- The Department has modified its use of force investigation strategy to make it more efficient and comprehensive.
- This includes assigning additional investigators to assess use of force incidents, improving the collection and review of evidence, and uses of force reports.

The Department has assigned additional investigators to assess use of force incidents, improving the collection and review of evidence, and uses of force reports. The Chief told reporters that since October 25, 2011, the Police Department has handled numerous Occupy Oakland events involving more than 60,000 people. Most events have gone without incident, but in the few individual cases of alleged and known police misconduct, the Chief said he has acted quickly to investigate and hold officers accountable.

All changes were initiated after Departmental review of key crowd control and management incidents since last October. The Department's goal was to improve training, tactics, and policies in light of the Department's experiences. As Chief of Police, Jordan said, "These broad reforms improve relations with the community we serve; ultimately, the Oakland Police Department belongs to the community, and I am committed to ensuring that we earn their confidence and trust."

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