



Oakland Police Department
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THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT MAKES IMPRESSIVE STRIDES TOWARD COMPLYING WITH THE RIDERS' SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

OAKLAND, May 16— “The [Oakland Police Department] [has] accomplished more during the last two months of this reporting period than it had during all previous reporting periods combined,” the Independent Monitoring Team (IMT) reported in its Sixth Quarterly Report to the Court released today. OPD appreciates the IMT highlighting many of our accomplishments.

Most notably, during this period the Department completed all of the policies that were outstanding as of last quarter. A total of 11 policies were completed and submitted to the IMT. Six of the 11 policies have been deemed compliant by the IMT. The other five are pending IMT review and approval. Those policies cover use of force, citizen complaints, consistency of discipline and internal investigations. In developing these policies, the Department has engaged various stakeholders, including consultants, the plaintiffs' attorneys and the unions, and conducted extensive research to identify best practices.

In addition, the Department implemented the Management Assessment Program (MAP), which provides commanders and managers real-time data to assess compliance efforts on a weekly basis. As acknowledged by the IMT, “...MAP is beginning to enhance management accountability because commanders are expected to explain shortcomings in their areas and to provide remedial plans.” In addition to MAP, the Department has implemented other internal control measures to enhance accountability and increase compliance efforts, such as:

(more)

- Restructuring the Internal Affairs (IA) Division, including the addition of a Captain and Lieutenant, to provide additional oversight and stronger leadership.
- Consultation with a national expert to provide training and guidance to the Internal Affairs Division.
- Specialized training for IA investigators.
- The addition of a Command Officer in the Bureau of Field Operations to oversee and track compliance.
- Establishing weekly command reviews, in which commanders audit Agreement requirements.

With respect to the deficiencies noted by the IMT in their report, the Department has already taken immediate corrective measures to prevent reoccurrences of those deficiencies. According to the IMT, there appear to be several hundred citizen complaints received from 2003 through 2005 that were never investigated by OPD. However, the Department believes that this assessment is premature. The Department acknowledges that there were 775 entries in the Internal Affairs database that did not have case numbers assigned, but upon initial review, not all of these entries constitute citizen complaints that warrant investigations. The Department has taken corrective steps to prevent such entries in the future and has undertaken an exhaustive review of the database to identify and investigate all complaints that should have been investigated. All but 90 of the 775 entries occurred in 2003 and 2004. The Department is confident that its efforts this quarter will prevent such occurrences in the future, address other deficiencies noted in the report and enhance the Department's compliance efforts.

“The City remains committed to implementing all of the provisions outlined in the Agreement. The appointment of Chief Tucker as interim chief, and the continued involvement and support of the Mayor and City Council demonstrate our resolve in achieving the goals I outlined to Judge Henderson in February of this year,” said City Administrator Deborah Edgerly. Chief Tucker states that, “the Department has made tremendous strides towards compliance and I am proud of our efforts thus far. Our goal is to achieve substantial compliance with the Agreement by the end of this year.”

For information about the OPD Internal Affairs Division, please contact Captain Howard Jordan at (510) 238-3161.

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