



SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Honorable Members of the City Council
202 C St., Second Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

In November 2016, researchers at San Diego State University released a study that analyzed San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Stop Data. Its contents have been discussed at length by members of the community. It is important that we weigh in on this subject to provide context and our perspective of the report.

The analysis of available data from vehicle stops made by SDPD officers over the years 2014 and 2015, has generated significant controversy. The research was conducted by members of San Diego State University and the information has been covered extensively by local media outlets. Frequently, their stories feature quotes from activists and organizations that proclaim the data from these stops clearly demonstrated SDPD officers engaged in racial profiling. It is expected these claims will continue and grow louder, as councilmembers from the City of San Diego resume their discussion of this research.

Not surprisingly is that those with an anti-police agenda, who argue any sign of disparate treatment towards citizens is a definitive sign of racial profiling, are not discussing a finding from the study that contradicts their beliefs. Specifically, researchers stated, "...we did not find evidence that these disparities were the result of deliberate discrimination or racism on the part of SDPD Officers."

The San Diego Police Officers Association (SDPOA), which represents 98% of the sworn officers of the SDPD, remains steadfast in its beliefs that claims suggesting its officers engage in racial profiling are unfounded. While the SDPOA is not naïve enough to believe that racial profiling can never occur within SDPD, we are confident that if any such instances come to light that they will be dealt with promptly and appropriately.

It is important to stay vigilant and constantly track data that enhances accountability and ensures transparency in regards to stops of citizens by officers. This responsibility may be furthered by the implementation of bills like AB 953, which require extensive data collection from citizens contacted by officers and will be subject to review by state officials to determine the existence of racial profiling.

The SDPOA will work with elected officials to ensure this legislation is successfully implemented. However, the SDPOA respectfully requests officials acknowledge this significant task will demand the commitment of resources and personnel that SDPD does not currently have to meet this obligation and continue to provide the highest quality of policing services to the citizens we serve.

In fact, the SDPOA requests an immediate update of SDPD's Five-Year Plan, submitted to city council in 2012, that called for increased police staffing by 300-plus officers, but resulted in the addition of only 19 of those requested officers.

Citizens and elected officials continue to make clear to the SDPOA their expectations. What is not clear is whether they will ever provide the resources necessary to the San Diego Police Department to meet those expectations.

We ask that this City Council will consider all aspects and implications of this study fairly and that they understand that as the demand for reform grows, so does the demand for new top-quality officers.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
San Diego Police Officers Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian R. Marvel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian R. Marvel
President

Cc: Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego
Chief Shelley Zimmerman, San Diego Police Department