



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Karen Boyd
City Administrator's
Office
(510) 449-4401

KBoyd@oaklandnet.com

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Libby Schaaf Reiterates Outrage at Police Misconduct

Oakland, CA—Mayor Schaaf today issued the following statement in response to recent media accounts regarding police misconduct:

“We continue to be disgusted and outraged by the idea that anyone could abuse an underage victim of sexual exploitation – particularly those who have sworn to uphold the law and protect our communities; we are sickened to think anyone could even know of such abuse and not bring that information forward.

Our highest priority is to hold those responsible for wrongdoing fully accountable and remove them from positions where they are offending the public trust; anything that impedes these outcomes is counterproductive and compromises justice.

We acknowledge that recent news accounts have revealed a number of details pertaining to the ongoing investigation of disturbing criminal acts and misconduct by current and former Oakland Police Officers and other law enforcement personnel. These news reports also contain information we believe is inaccurate.

We will disclose all allowable details of this investigation, including the accuracy of recent news reports, once such disclosure will no longer impede our ability to reach the truth and secure the strongest judgments against those responsible.

The City Administrator, Interim Chief Fairow and I want to assure the public that we have dedicated extraordinary resources to this complex investigation, that it is proceeding well, and that we are doing everything we can to ensure it will result in the most serious punishment and consequences allowable by law.

Additionally, we have involved other law enforcement agencies wherever appropriate, and have established several layers of independent review to assure the public of our thoroughness and impartiality.

I wish to express my appreciation to Interim Chief Fairow, who has hit the ground running and recognizes the importance of this investigation.”

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Background on City's Policy and Approach to Public Disclosure

The City is deeply committed to transparency. At the same time, confidentiality during an investigation is vital for learning facts and reaching the truth. The City's policy balances both things: it protects the investigative process AND it gives the public access to far more information than state law requires.

As for police records, the City's policy is to release most records once the police investigation concludes and the case is done in the court system or prosecutors decide not to charge the case. Once the City can safely release information, we do so in a way that protects minors, privacy rights and certain other key interests. The City's policy is found in its Municipal Code at § 2.20.220.

State law, though, strictly prohibits the City from disclosing most personnel information about peace officers. This includes details about internal affairs investigations—even whether one is open against an officer. That law is: Penal Code § 832.7.

With all this in mind, the City is releasing all the information that it can. The public has a right to know. The public also has a right to a thorough City inquiry that holds officers to answer for misconduct.

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