



City of
OAKLAND
California

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Oakland Police Department Launches New Crowd Management Reforms

Oakland, CA — The Oakland Police Department is committed to becoming a national leader in crowd management by reforming and improving its policies and practices. Today Chief Jordan, Mayor Jean Quan and City Administrator Deanna J. Santana announced a series of new procedures – some already underway – that OPD is adopting to reform its approach to crowd management.

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“It is our 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,” said Police Chief Howard Jordan. “Since October 25, 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, I have acted quickly to investigate and hold officers accountable.”

Additionally, last December the City of Oakland hired an outside investigator to look at the Department’s response to Occupy, and the Federal Monitor is conducting a separate review.

“Even before the final results of these external reviews are complete, we recognize that there is room for improvement,” Chief Jordan continued. “We are committed to immediately improving our training, tactics, and policies in light of our experiences.”

City Administrator Deanna J. Santana commended the Chief for initiating efforts to reform the Police Department: “As I have said before, I am committed to leading an organization that acknowledges when we do things right, and that equally acknowledges the areas that require improvement or corrective action.”

“We are building a new police department with stronger ties to the community, so I thank Chief Jordan and City Administrator Santana for implementing new training, management practices and policy reforms week after week as we learn from our experiences,” said Mayor Jean Quan. “They have not waited for outside reports; our interactions with demonstrators and the community have already changed. This commitment to accountability is critical to build the trust necessary for real community policing.”

The new crowd management procedures announced today – some of which are already underway – fall into five key categories:

- **Better Crowd Management Training.** The Police Department has provided its entire command staff crowd management training, bringing in outside training from subject matter experts and exposing less experienced commanders to crowd control situations.

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Officers and supervisors have received additional training on crowd management movement and tactics. By the end of April, every officer will have received training. OPD is also revising its crowd management policy to be consistent with upcoming [POST-recommended crowd management policies](#).

- **Community Involvement.** Chief Jordan has formed a community advisory working group to review the Police Department's crowd management policy and make recommendations on how to improve it.
- **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 April, every officer will have received training.
- **Use of Force Investigations.** The Police 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.
- **Use of Mutual Aid.** The Police Department will be participating in tabletop exercises with outside agencies, has improved how it tracks their movement and uses of force, and met with them to discuss OPD's crowd management policies.

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