



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2026

**Office of the Director of Police Accountability
Welcomes Mary Opler as New Director**

BERKELEY, CA – The Office of the Director of Police Accountability (ODPA) welcomes Mary Opler as its new Director of Police Accountability. Ms. Opler brings a unique breadth of experience to this position, having served as a public defender, a prosecutor, a law enforcement officer, an auditor of public safety personnel investigations, and most recently, head of a civilian-led internal affairs unit supervising sworn and civilian personnel. Additionally, she has an extensive record of community engagement throughout her career, having worked with FEMA, the Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity, focusing on outreach to marginalized communities. While she comes to us directly from Seattle, WA, Ms. Opler has also worked in Sacramento and San Francisco.

“I thank the Mayor and City Council for the appointment of Ms. Opler,” said Kathy Lee, Interim Director of Police Accountability. “She is a solid choice to be our next Director. Aside from her proven dedication to public service, particularly in the field of civilian oversight of law enforcement, I was struck by her enthusiasm and her commitment to building relationships with numerous stakeholders that is so fundamental to this position.”

Ms. Opler will assume her position on October 5. Ms. Lee will remain with the ODPA until October 16 to assist Ms. Opler in transitioning into her new role.

About the Office of the Director of Police Accountability (ODPA):

The purpose of the Director of Police Accountability is to investigate complaints filed against sworn employees of the Berkeley Police Department, to reach an independent finding as to the facts, and to recommend corrective action where warranted. The Director of Police Accountability may also serve as the Secretary to the Police Accountability Board and assist the Board in carrying out the duties prescribed herein.

About the Police Accountability Board (PAB):

The purpose of the Police Accountability Board is to promote public trust through independent, objective, civilian oversight of the Berkeley Police Department, provide community participation in setting and reviewing Police Department policies, practices, and procedures, and provide a means for prompt, impartial and fair investigation of complaints brought by members of the public against sworn employees of the Berkeley Police Department.

For further information or inquiries, please contact:

Katherine Lee

Interim Director of Police Accountability

dpa@berkeleyca.gov

510-981-4950

[END OF RELEASE]