



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2025

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD SUBMITS LETTERS OPPOSING RESCISSION OF LOCAL EQUIPMENT OVERSIGHT ORDINANCE AND RECOMMENDING SAFEGUARDS IN SURVEILLANCE CAMERA POLICY

BERKELEY, CA – The Police Accountability Board (PAB) has submitted two letters to the Berkeley City Council and its Public Safety Policy Committee (PSPC), responding to recent proposals that could significantly alter the City’s approach to oversight of police equipment and surveillance technologies.

One letter addresses the proposed rescission of the Police Equipment and Community Safety Ordinance (BMC Chapter 2.100)—a landmark ordinance adopted in 2021 to provide local oversight over controlled equipment. The second responds to the proposed acquisition of Flock Safety pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) surveillance cameras, urging the Council to adopt stronger safeguards aligned with existing policies on automated license plate readers.

Public Safety Policy Committee to Consider Rescission Proposal – July 21

Meeting Details:

 Monday, July 21, 2025

 10:30 AM

 Redwood Room, 2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

 [Zoom Access](#) | Meeting ID: 161 250 3824

 Dial: 1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

 Submit written comment: policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov

 **Agenda & Staff Reports:** <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/2025-07-21%20Agenda%20Packet%20-%20Public%20Safety.pdf>

In its July 18, 2025 letter to the PSPC, the PAB urges the Committee to reject the proposed rescission of BMC 2.100, which was adopted unanimously by the Council in 2021 after years of community advocacy. The proposal cites redundancy with California’s

AB 481, which also regulates the use of military equipment by law enforcement agencies. However, the PAB contends that BMC 2.100 enhances AB 481's baseline requirements by:

- Requiring reporting on deployments, not just use
- Including local oversight via the PAB
- Mandating impact statements, whistleblower protections, and a private right of action

The PAB recommends targeted revisions to streamline reporting while preserving the ordinance's substantive oversight framework. A redlined revision is attached to the letter for the Committee's consideration.

 **Read the full letter here:**

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/7.18.25%20-%20PAB%20Chair%20Ltr%20to%20PSPC%20Controlled%20Equipment%20wAttachments%28Final%29%20%281%29.pdf>

Full Council to Consider Surveillance Camera Acquisition – July 22

Meeting Details:

 Tuesday, July 22, 2025

 6:00 PM

 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

 [Zoom Access](#) | Meeting ID: 160 207 8591

 Dial: 1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

 Submit written comment: council@berkeleyca.gov

 Agenda & Staff Reports: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/city-council-meetings/2025-07-22%20Revised%20Agenda%20Packet%20-%20Council%20%28Web%29.pdf>

In its July 17, 2025 letter, the PAB provides feedback on BPD's proposed acquisition and use policy for Flock Safety PTZ surveillance cameras. While acknowledging the public safety rationale, the PAB identifies several gaps in the proposed policies—particularly around privacy, data retention, and alignment with Berkeley's Sanctuary City commitments.

To address these concerns, the PAB recommends:

- Limiting retention of video footage to 30 days, consistent with Policy 1305 on ALPRs

- Including technical safeguards to prevent unauthorized or third-party access
- Requiring prompt notification of any federal data requests, including those related to immigration enforcement

 **Read the full letter here:**

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-07-17%20Letter%20to%20Council%20re%20Surveillance%20Camera%20Policy%20-%20Final%20%283%29.pdf>

Community Participation Encouraged

The ODPa and PAB encourage all community members to participate in these important policy discussions. Both meetings are open to the public and offer hybrid access. Community voices are essential to ensuring that oversight and technology policies reflect Berkeley's values.

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.

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.

For further information or inquiries, please contact:

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