

**From:** Berkeley Copwatch <[berkeleycopwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:berkeleycopwatch@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2022 11:37 AM  
**To:** Office of the Director of Public Accountability  
<[OfficeoftheDirectorofPoliceAccountability@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:OfficeoftheDirectorofPoliceAccountability@cityofberkeley.info)>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Committee investigating BPD text scandal

Dear Members of the Police Accountability Board,

We, members of Berkeley Copwatch, call on the Police Accountability Board to use your full legal powers and authority to investigate the question of whether Berkeley Police officers were involved in the use of "arrest quotas" and the targeting of marginalized people in an effort to create inflated arrest statistics. We encourage you to examine witnesses, police reports, stop data, jail logs and court documents to understand who the "Bike Force" was arresting, why and on what basis these arrests were being made. Also, were overtime procedures conducted according to policy or was overtime incentivized to reward cops who increased their arrest statistics? How is data being used by the BPD to increase safety, justice and efficiency?

As you investigate the most recent BPD scandal, we urge you to include the following aspects in your scope:

- Investigate the number of arrests by the Bike Force compared to the number of arrests made by the rest of the department. What were the closure/clearance rates of the Bike Force arrests vs. that of arrests from the rest of the department? How many of the people arrested by the Bike Force were released with no charges?
- Investigate the use of overtime payments as incentive for officers to meet arrest quotas. Identify which command staff were signing off on unverified overtime payments and who else was or should have been aware? (Did these officers actually work the shifts that they billed the city for?)
- Use your subpoena power to interview individual officers and uncover the actual day-to-day operations of the Bike Force. Access essential information and source documents in a timely fashion.
- Offer specific and far reaching protections to whistleblowers.
- Identify the source of retaliation against the whistleblower officer and illegal disclosure of his confidential personnel information. Was it [leaked](#) to the media for political purposes?
- Assess/identify the racial disparities that exist within the group of the people arrested/targeted by the Bike Force. Were particular officers arresting an excessively high number of people of color?
- Assess/identify the housing status of the people arrested by the Bike Force, and what other actions were taken against these people by the police.
- Scrub the social media accounts of each of the officers in the department to understand if they are active participants in racist conversations and spaces. Identify which officers in authority positions were aware of text groups like the one leaked. Were there any preventative/disciplinary actions taken on the offending officers once commanding officers were made aware?

Finally, should you find that crimes have been perpetrated by the BPD, we expect that the PAB will refer the matter to the Attorney General's office.

Thank you for your service to our community,  
Berkeley Copwatch