

21 January 2015

The Honorable Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
And Members of the City Council
City of Tucson
255 West Alameda Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Subject: Citizen Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB) 2014 Annual Report

The Board would first like to thank the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Tucson. The Board thanks Tucson Police Department leadership and the Professional Standards Division for its responsiveness to requests and positive attitude and action. The Office of Independent Police Auditor has been an excellent resource and support for the Board's activities and is much appreciated. The representative of the City Attorney's Office has also been of invaluable assistance. Finally, the board is grateful to the City Clerk for providing clerical support. The success of the Board has been greatly enhanced by the team effort practiced by all.

2014 has been a dynamic year in the world of policing, both locally and nationally. The Main Gate Square incident had a dramatic impact on the department and a series of national incidents (e.g. Ferguson and New York City) also resulted in significant local impacts. In an effort to execute its oversight and public outreach duties, the Board reviewed the Main Gate Square incident as well as the Department's approach to dealing with local protests in response to use-of-force incidents. The Board also received a myriad of presentations from the Department on other issues, including the domestic violence and Internet crimes units, local implementation of SB 1070, the fielding of technology within the Department, as well as the re-capitalization of Department equipment. In this context, the Board offers the following findings and recommendations:

Findings

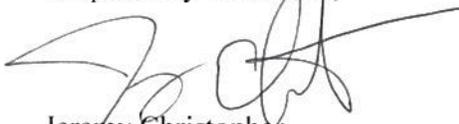
1. The Tucson Police Department's Internal Affairs Department's investigative process is fair and thorough; the public should have confidence in the process.
2. The Tucson Police Department is proactive in advancing and improving relations between police and community minority groups.
3. The Tucson Police Department is abiding by the principle of equal protection under the law for all persons.
4. The Tucson Police Department continues to be under resourced as compared to peer communities.

Recommendations

1. The Mayor and Council should explore appropriating resources for the procurement of body-worn cameras for all officers as well as the storage of camera data for use-of-force incidents (to reduce data storage costs). In communities that have fully deployed body-worn cameras, citizen complaints have dropped dramatically. Additionally, video evidence could help to avoid incidents such as those in Ferguson and New York City here in Tucson as well as protect the City from liability claims arising from such incidents. Finally, video evidence would only further increase the public's confidence in their Department by either demonstrating appropriate conduct or by providing evidence for disciplinary action if an officer is not acting in accordance with the law or Department policies/procedures.
2. The Mayor and Council and Department should establish procedures, in conjunction with other municipalities and agencies in the metropolitan area, to document citizen contacts in an effort to demonstrate that racial profiling is not occurring and to ensure compliance with SB 1070.
3. Open dialogue is a hallmark of the Tucson community. However, the Department should establish policy guidance to ensure the rights of citizens to unfettered transportation and commerce are balanced against the first-amendment rights of protestors.
4. Tucson continues to lose officers to other local municipalities due to non-competitive salaries. Additionally, significant equipment needs to be re-capitalized to ensure that the Department can effectively execute its duties. Sufficient funding for TPD should be a priority in the formulation of the City's budget for the coming year.
5. Due to the importance of the Board's work, The Mayor and Council should make every effort to ensure vacancies are filled as soon as possible with qualified members of the community.

The public's interaction and relationship with their government is most prevalent in its interaction with its Police Department. Consequently, the Board takes its oversight responsibilities seriously and is diligent in carrying out its duties. For this reason, the Board is confident in reporting to both the Mayor and Council that the Tucson Police Department has assiduously executed its duties over the past year. Although there is always room for improvement in any organization, the Mayor and Council and, more importantly, the public, should have confidence in their police force to both protect and to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeremy Christopher
Chairperson, Ward 6
Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board