


Office of the City Manager

August 25, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, Interim City Manager
Re: Status of PRC's Investigation of Police Response to December 6, 2014, Protests, and Plan for In-Vehicle and Body-Worn Cameras

The Police Review Commission (PRC) would like to update the City Council of its progress on two City Council referral items: 1) The investigation into the Berkeley Police Department's response to the protests on the night of December 6, 2014, and 2) the development of a plan for the use of police in-vehicle (dash) cameras and body-worn cameras. The Council requested a report back on both items by August 10, 2015.

With respect to the investigation into the December 2014 protest response, the PRC has been working diligently, but has not finished its report. The PRC expects to finish its investigatory report in time for publication on the December 1, 2015 Council agenda.

The scope of what occurred over some eight hours on the night of December 6, coupled with the significant policy issues raised, have required an enormous amount of time to review and assess. The PRC, which normally meets twice monthly, has held seven special meetings since March to devote more time to the investigation, while clearing its agendas of all other items except the most pressing matters.

The PRC met on 11 of 13 Wednesday nights from May through July, and met on August 12 when it usually takes an August recess. Between meetings, Commission members have reviewed hundreds of pages of documentation, collectively viewed some 400 video clips of the events, and drafted and reworked findings and policy recommendations to be considered during meetings.

On the second item, the PRC expects to recommend a plan for in-vehicle and body-worn cameras in early 2016. The PRC appreciates your understanding and patience as it deliberates over these important subjects.

CC: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer
Katherine Lee, Police Review Commission Officer
Michael Meehan, Chief of Police