

National Police Reform

May 2021

The Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) supports national police reform that is more prescriptive and is rooted in proven best practices that will improve police and community outcomes. The LAPPL seeks collaboration on police reform legislation at the federal level which immediately:

- Establishes national minimum standards for police use-of-force;
- Mandates implementation of early intervention systems that identify officers in need of additional training and mentoring;
- Requires officers to intervene when they see excessive force or misconduct;
- Creates a national database of officers fired for gross misconduct;
- Requires mental health teams to respond to 911 calls that don't need an armed response; and
- Provides ongoing and frequent scenario-based training to every member of law enforcement to meet these national standards.

LAPPL is seeking clear legislative language—for every jurisdiction that does not meet the national minimum standards, immediately cut off their federal funding.

Unfortunately, the current federal police reform legislation includes language such as; "initial review and analysis," "recommend," "recommendation," and "study." Police reform must not languish like immigration reform.

Congress should look to California and enact the laws, policies, procedures, and protocols the LAPD, SFPD, and SJPD have in place now – including AB 392, signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2019, which affirmatively prescribes the circumstances under which a peace officer is authorized to use deadly force. It is time to move past review and recommend and, with a sense of urgency, enact and evaluate proven reforms to improve policing.

NATIONAL **USE-OF-FORCE** MINIMUM **STANDARDS**

Specifically, in Subtitle B—Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, beginning on pg. 21, line 11 and Subtitle B—Additional Reforms, pg. 75, line 10 SEC. 364. PEACE ACT of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (H.R. 1280) we recommend striking all language not consistent with the adoption of California's AB 392 and SB 230.

These California bills established a new use of force law and minimum policy standards that jurisdictions must adopt. These two laws encompass de-escalation best practices, provide clear expectations for police officers, and established unambiguous policy mandates jurisdictions must adopt and train their officers to meet.1

NATIONAL EARLY INTERVENTION **SYSTFM** STANDARDS

Specifically, in Subtitle B—Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, beginning on pg. 21, line 22 (i) of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (H.R. 1280) we recommend amending the current language to read:

Jurisdictions must create an Early Intervention System that is designed to change the behavior of individual law enforcement officers who have been identified as potentially exhibiting patterns of problematic behavior. The system must minimally track a law enforcement officer's personnel complaints, uses of force, vehicle pursuits, on duty traffic collisions and civil litigation and compare that officer to their immediate peer group thresholds to determine if the officer is in need of additional training, mentoring and/or

² SB 230: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB230



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NATIONAL DUTY TO INTERVENE STANDARDS

Specifically, in Subtitle B—Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, beginning on pg. 21, line 24 (ii) of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (H.R. 1280) we recommend striking the current language and amending to read:

✓ When a peace officer becomes aware of possible misconduct by another member of a police department, the peace officer shall immediately report the incident to a supervisor or directly to Internal Affairs. Furthermore, a peace officer who observes serious misconduct shall take appropriate action to intervene to cause the misconduct to immediately cease.³

Specifically, in Subtitle B—Additional Reforms, beginning on pg. 72, line 2-3 as well as pg. 73, line 2-3 add language after "duty to intervene" that reads:

✓ ...duty to intervene that is consistent with the principles taught through the EPIC peer intervention program that is based in social science.⁴

NATIONAL POLICE MISCONDUCT REGISTRY

We support the creation of a national registry of former law enforcement members terminated for gross misconduct and/or decertified to be a member of law enforcement in their respective jurisdiction or state.

- ✓ Individual must only be placed in the registry after any allegation or complaint has been fully adjudicated and the officer has exhausted their administrative remedies, to include a due process hearing.
- Investigations into allegations of misconduct or complaints must be completed until a conclusion is made, even if the subject officer retires, resigns, is terminated, or transfers to another agency.

NATIONAL PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE USE-OF-FORCE DATA-BASE STANDARDS

We support a publicly accessible online use of force database similar to what the SJPD has implemented.⁵

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE TO 911 CALLS

San Francisco and Los Angeles implemented an alternative response to mental health 911 calls that are deemed safe for a non-law enforcement response. In San Jose, the police union took the lead by proposing to the city a plan to do the same. It makes all the sense in the world to have a mental health clinician dispatched to assist someone in crisis as long as it is safe. Congress should enact standards and provide funding for this initiative.⁶

SUPPORT FOR POLICE OFFICERS

This bill should include federal funding to continuously train peace officers to meet these uniform federal standards. Federal funding and/or assistance should be provided for education loan forgiveness, down payment assistance so officers can afford to live near their work, and for other incentives to allow jurisdictions to recruit and retain highly qualified officers that reflect the very communities they serve.

To learn more, visit www.investinpolicing.com

³ https://www.lapdonline.org/lapd_manual/volume_1.htm, 210.46 EMPLOYEE'S DUTY TO REPORT MISCONDUCT.

http://epic.nola.gov/home/

⁵ https://www.sjpd.org/records/crime-stats-maps/force-analysis-data

⁶ https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/lapd-launches-program-for-mental-health-clinicians-to-respond-to-some-calls/2523190/

https://www.lapdonline.org/detective_bureau/content_basic_view/51704