



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Serving the Community since 1975

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730 East Altadena Drive, Altadena, California 91001

February 10, 2018

The Honorable Terry Tornek
Mayor of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228
Pasadena, CA 91109

Chief Phillip Sanchez
Pasadena Police Department
207 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: Concern over Pasadena Police Officer Actions within Altadena Town Limits

Dear Mayor Tornek and Police Chief Sanchez:

The November 9, 2017 traffic stop of Altadena resident, Chris Ballew, which led to a beating and threat to his life at the hands of Pasadena Police has outraged our community. This concern is exacerbated by the fact that he was stopped within the town limits of Altadena for driving with tinted windows and a missing front license plate. The members of the Altadena Town Council (ATC) are writing to you to express the concerns of Altadena residents and to make several requests which were voiced at the January 16 ATC meeting during public comment.

Some residents stated that this incident points out the importance of the discussion both locally and nationally regarding the ongoing problem of police brutality and racist practices carried out by some law enforcement agencies. When it happens so close to home it requires swift and decisive action. The Altadena Town Council, along with the residents we represent, will not tolerate brutality or racist practices by anyone including law enforcement.

Residents of Altadena have expressed their deep concern over this incident and about feeling unsafe with regards to potential interactions with Pasadena Police Officers in the area. As a

result, it is critical that all appropriate actions are taken to ensure that these types of incidents never happen again in our community.

In an effort to uphold the safety and quality of life of each and every one of our Altadena residents, they have voiced the following requests of the Pasadena Police Department.

- That Officers Larry Esparza and Zachary Lujan be restricted from conducting any police business within Altadena city limits. Pasadena Police Officers continued presence in Altadena has resulted in at least one additional harassment incident since the incident on November 9, and poses a continued safety concern to all residents of Altadena,
- We understand that it is critical for you to patrol your northern border and it is legal for law enforcement to transverse city lines, however, PPD officers must refrain from proactively patrolling in Altadena. When required to cross town borders, PPD officers must be acutely aware that they have moved into Altadena and proceed accordingly.
- This incident has pointed out a lack of training that must be corrected. Included in that training should be the fact that, once in Altadena, PPD officers are in another town and should operationally have better, less heavy handed practices wherever possible. Altadena Residents request that the Pasadena Police Department review, revise and adopt policies and procedures on use of force, racial profiling, and investigatory stops to be more protective of residents of surrounding communities, compliant and consistent with same requirements as the Altadena Sheriffs and any other law enforcement operating within Altadena,
- So that they may be better understood by the community, we request that any Pasadena Police Department policies, or laws, or state policies, or agreements between police enforcement departments that speak to Pasadena officers' presence and scope outside of Pasadena city limits, and/or specifically in regards to within Altadena, are shared with us.

The ATC would like to provide a forum for ongoing communication between the Altadena community and the PPD. Altadena enjoys an open dialog with County Sheriffs and California Highway Patrol who provide a monthly report of activity at our ATC meetings. We have found that, over the years, this ongoing dialog with the community has been an effective effort with extremely positive results. In the interest of improved relations with the PPD, we would encourage you to voluntarily provide written reports of any Pasadena Police Department incidents and activities that occur within Altadena to the ATC on a monthly basis. Including the PPD in this monthly law enforcement reporting would be a positive step in improving communication between the PPD and Altadena residents.

As a first step and, if at all possible, the community asks that all incidents – responses, detainments, tickets issued, arrests, and other incidents – that have occurred within Altadena by Pasadena Police in the last year be compiled and reported back to the ATC for dissemination into the community.

We understand that the city is conducting an extensive investigation into this matter and we request that Altadena be notified of any changes that come of that investigation. The expectation is that out of this investigation the PPD will adopt a corrective action plan. The ACT requests that the PPD also share this plan with the Altadena community through the ATC at a council meeting.

Our communities are close neighbors and our relationship is important. We shop, work, and play in each other's neighborhoods. Having a safe Pasadena and Altadena is beneficial to both communities. Altadena residents appreciate your swift response to these requests. We are sure

that our mutual goal is to improve the safety of our residents, and restore trust between our communities.

Sincerely,



Okorie Ezieme

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Cc: Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Captain Vicki Stuckey
Steven Mermell, Pasadena City Manager