



**COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVA
FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

March 12, 2021

Sharmaine Moseley
Civic Center Plaza Building, 9th Floor-Suite 924
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

Executive Director Moseley,

Please accept this letter as a formal request for the Commission on Police Practices (CPP) to investigate two recent incidents involving the San Diego Police Department. The first incident the officer involved shooting of a homeless man in the Gaslamp Quarter on February 25, and the second one is the March 9 traffic stop involving an 8-year old passenger. This request is made under “(3) an incident that has generated substantial public interest or concern” of Charter Section 41.2.

While social media does not paint a comprehensive picture of events, a recent opinion¹ in The San Diego Union-Tribune makes it clear that the reporting for these two incidents was well documented yet ambiguous, justifying the need for further investigation. Therefore, I call upon the CPP to investigate if the actions taken by the officers, in both incidents comport with current department policies and practices. I also call upon the CPP to look at the larger trend and determine if SDPD needs to make changes to their current protocols. If these incidents point to a larger problem, it is our job to identify and correct. If CPP finds nothing wrong despite the outcomes and perceptions, there is nothing to fear from this investigation and everything to gain.

¹Opinion: San Diego videos show what’s at stake in police stops, The San Diego Union-Tribune, March 12, 2021, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/editorials/story/2021-03-11/san-diego-shooting-gaslamp-gun-pointed-8-year-old>

With the passage of Measure B last November with 75% of the public in support, the CPP has a powerful opportunity, responsibility, and obligation to help the public understand what happened and most importantly, provide an independent assessment.

Please contact my office if you have any questions and to advise as to the timing of the investigations.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe LaCava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilmember Joe LaCava

cc: Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Mayor Todd Gloria's Office
Monica Montgomery, Chair, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Council Committee
Chief Nisleit, San Diego Police Department