



Commission on Police Practices

NEWS ADVISORY

Community Hearing on San Diego Police Department Pretext Stops

Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Time: 5:00 pm (please set up by 4:30 pm)
Location: George L. Stevens Senior Center
570 S. 65th Street
San Diego 92114



You're driving down the street and see police lights in your rearview mirror. You don't think you broke any laws, but you get pulled over. The officer says you crossed the limit line at a stop sign. The officer also starts looking through the window of your car and asking questions, then asks to search your car.

While legal, many times it's a **pretext stop**—when police stop a vehicle for a minor violation as an excuse or “pretext” to conduct a search and look for other crimes.

In general, statistics indicate that people of color are pulled over for pretext stops at a much higher rate than Whites. These pretext stops lead to a large number of complaints against the San Diego Police Department, which the Commission on Police Practices (CPP) reviews. It also increases distrust between residents and police.

The purpose of this Community Hearing is to:

- Share information about pretext stops and its implications on the community
- Hear public testimony by residents and those affected by pretext stops

San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl will attend and listen to the testimony.

This Community Hearing is the first step for the CPP to determine and consider recommendations regarding SDPD policy, in an effort to increase trust between the community and police.

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