



CITY of OAKLAND | POLICE COMMISSION

250 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 6302 • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Statement From Dr. Tyfahra Milele, Chair of the Oakland Police Commission

We are profoundly disappointed by a troubled local TV station's web post early this morning that repeats inaccurate, malicious assertions and fails to take into account verifiable facts that were made available to the writer of the Internet screed.

The extremist attack by an unelected, unaccountable, small group of politically ambitious zealots counters the will of the Oakland electorate and makes flagrantly false allegations. That a controversial local TV outlet, hoping to stop the erosion of its dwindling audience, would simply repeat the libels with a reckless disregard for the truth prompts this response.

I raise the issue out of a grave concern that the vital role of the Police Commission's independence is under threat. There is a concerted effort to steadily defund the Police Commission. There is also overt political retribution and stonewalling of basic processes – counter to the letter and spirit of the ballot measures that the people of Oakland passed.

Our specific responses to the inflammatory web post include:

- A vigorous, ongoing search for a new Oakland police chief is and has been underway for months. We don't understand why the mayor would have said the Commission is not searching for a consultant when as recently as yesterday the Commission's search committee met with the City's HR Department and nominee search firm. More to the point, we question why the TV writer of the post chose to ignore this vital, verifiable fact.
- Oakland voters created the commission, which is extraordinarily transparent and non-partisan. It is not run by a small, self-appointed political group with no citizen accountability that can take advantage of that very transparency and attempt to impose its completely opaque, self-serving, and personally ambitious ideology. The TV writer was made aware of this key point but chose to ignore it, rendering the story still more inaccurate and misleading.
- The local TV posting had a full and complete response to the wholly inaccurate assertions by this small band of self-appointed extremists – *the lead proponent being a former lawyer disbarred by the State Bar of California for fraudulent practices.*
- The TV station web writer knowingly failed to not only use the information for accuracy and balance, but chose to ignore it, except to twist a few statements out of context. This pattern of a reckless disregard for the truth is deeply disturbing.
- The far more important and verifiable story is the attempted power grab by a small band of political extremists with a personal agenda that will make the Oakland Police Department still more difficult to reform, and continue the seriously mounting crime issues plaguing the good people of Oakland.

Oakland Police Commission Chief of Police Search Timeline:

- 2/16 - Chief LeRonne Armstrong fired
- 3/15 - Chair Milele sent letter to Mayor Thao requesting a meeting to discuss Police Chief search
- 3/23 - Commission sent follow-up to the Mayor's office
- 4/3 - Commission sent second follow-up to the Mayor's office
- 4/4 - Mayor's office schedules meeting for 4/18
- 4/18 - Meeting with Mayor Thao and Brooklyn Williams to discuss Commission's role in the Police Chief search and next steps
- 4/27 - Brooklyn Williams reaches out to HR to connect the Commission's Staff Searches Ad Hoc Committee with prospective search firms
- 5/2 - Ad Hoc Committee receives list of five (5) pre-approved firms from HR
- 5/15 - Ad Hoc Committee meets to discuss research on firms' experience, qualifications, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, narrowing choices down to two (2) firms
- 5/19 - Commission staff meets with HR to discuss process and next steps with the search firms
- 5/24 - Ad Hoc Committee is informed that one of the prospective search firms declines to submit proposal
- 5/25 - Remaining search firm agrees to submit proposal and requests meeting
- 6/6 - Ad Hoc Committee Staff, and HR meet with nominee search firm
- 6/15 - Follow-up meeting scheduled with Ad Hoc and nominee search firm
- 6/22 - Commission meeting scheduled to move on nominee search firm