

Raheem Oakland Report Draft Findings

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Overview

Raheem conducted two surveys of Oakland residents from August-September 2020 to gauge their previous interactions with Oakland police and residents' views on police use of force and other policing practices.

First, we worked with [YouGov](#) to conduct a representative online survey of 512 adults within the City of Oakland, weighted to reflect the city's demographics based on the 2019 American Community Survey. YouGov was selected because they have one of the broadest panels of survey respondents in the nation, permitting deep-dive analysis at the city-level. They are one of the highest-rated polling firms, according to [FiveThirtyEight.com's pollster ratings](#).

To obtain additional feedback from Oakland communities, especially communities disproportionately impacted by policing, we partnered with eight Black and brown-led

community-based organizations. We used digital ads to get input from additional Oakland residents - receiving over 1,400 additional responses from this effort.

This report presents some of the preliminary findings from this data collection.

Findings from the representative citywide survey

Oaklanders Support Expanding Non-Police Alternative Responders

1. Our representative poll results show that most Oakland residents support a non-policing response to a range of non-criminal issues and poverty, homelessness, and mental health issues. For example, **majorities of respondents supported deploying non-police responses to the following types of calls for service:**
 - Mental health crises
 - Animal control
 - Evictions of people living homeless
 - Complaints of loitering
 - Noise complaints

Which Service Calls Should Police Respond To

Some cities are beginning to adopt alternative responder models instead of sending police to the scene in some situations; for example, having mental health providers or soc...

Percent ▾

A situation with a potential active shooter	82
Traffic accidents	61
Speeding / traffic violations	59
Trespassing	58
Domestic disputes involving your family or a neighbor's	53
Noise complaint	32
Complaints of loitering	30
Evictions of people living homelessness	21
Mental health crises	17
Animal control	13
Other	6
None of the above	5

→ POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ The City of Oakland should scale up and support alternative responses to, at minimum, handle calls for service involving issues such as mental health crises, homelessness, loitering, noise complaints, animal control, and other non-violent situations.
- ✓ Oakland police should publish detailed calls for service data permitting analyses of how many calls they currently respond to that involve these types of situations and how much force police use during these encounters to assess better the role these responses have played in contributing to police use of force.

Use of Force Policy

1. **Oaklanders consider a range of interactions as forms of police use of force that are not currently deemed to be reportable use of force incidents by OPD.** Majorities of respondents consider it a form of police use of force when officers use racist or derogatory language against someone, unwanted sexual language or behavior, or point a taser or otherwise *threaten* someone with physical force. While OPD currently considers it a reportable force when an officer points a firearm at a civilian - other types of “threats of force” are not systematically reported, such as incidents where an officer points a taser at a civilian. This suggests OPD should expand what’s considered a reportable force to align with community expectations/perceptions of what constitutes police use of force.

Examples of police using force

Which of the following do you consider to be examples of police using force? Select all that apply.

Percent 

Punching or kicking you	77
Shooting a gun, taser or using other weapons on you	70
Pointing a gun at you	67
Threatening to punch or kick you	65
Using racist or other derogatory language towards you	62
Using crowd dispersal agents (i.e. tear gas, rubber bullets, etc.)	60
Unwanted sexual language and / or behavior	56
Pointing a taser or other weapon (that is not a gun) at you	56
Using intimidating body language or gestures	50
Telling you to allow police to search your property	35
Handcuffing you	34
Telling you that you can't leave when police stop you	30
None of the above	9
Other	5

2. **57%** of respondents indicated that OPD should not use physical force against people who are threatening to cause self-harm.

Should police use force against those threatening to hurt themselves

Should Oakland police be allowed to use physical force against someone who is only threatening to hurt themselves, but not anyone else?

	Percent
Yes	20
No	57
Not sure	24

3. **51%** of Oaklanders want to disarm either some or all OPD officers.

Should Oakland police always be armed

Should Oakland police always be armed with a gun while on-duty?

	Percent
All police officers should be armed with a gun while on-duty	49
Only specialized units of the police should be armed with guns, and respond to more dangerous situations	38
No police officers should be armed with guns while on-duty, but police should still carry pepper spray, tasers, and / or weapons other than a gun	11
No police officers should be armed with guns or any other weapons while on-duty	3

4. Among Oaklanders who believe armed police should respond to some, but not all, situations, **only 4%** thought armed officers should respond to fights between unarmed people.

What situations should police officers armed with guns respond to

What situations should police officers armed with guns respond to? Select all that apply.

	Percent
When a person is reportedly using a gun to threaten or harm someone	93
When a person is threatening to use a knife or other potentially dangerous object that is not a gun	64
When someone calls police and says they are in danger but does not specifically describe what the danger is or whether the person is armed	52
When a person has a gun but is not using it and is not threatening to do so	37
A fight between unarmed people	4
Other	3

→ POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Oakland police should revise their use of force reporting requirements to expand the definition of force to require officers to report and the department to systematically track other “threats of force” and the current policy of requiring reporting whenever an officer points a firearm at a civilian.
- ✓ Since the passage of [AB 392](#), officers in California are prohibited from using deadly force against people who are threatening self-harm and not threatening others:
 - (2) A peace officer shall not use deadly force against a person based on the danger that person poses to themselves if an objectively reasonable officer would believe the person does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or to another person also to ban all forms of physical or less-lethal force in these situations.

While Section D-1 of the [proposed](#) use of force policy incorporates this statewide requirement, this section still allows officers to use “reasonable and necessary” force options to “prevent a person from injuring himself/herself.” Our survey finds that Oaklanders want officers prohibited from using *any* form of physical force against people who are threatening self-harm and not threatening others - the policy should be expanded to include this ban.

- ✓ The City of Oakland should reconsider having all officers carry a firearm. For example, officers responding to car accidents, traffic violations, disputes between unarmed people, and other encounters do not need a person with a gun on the scene.

Police Accountability

Oaklanders generally support the need for more police accountability, transparency for misconduct records, and changes to the police disciplinary appeals process.

- 5. **58% of respondents indicated they want Oakland police to be held more accountable for using force.**

Are Oakland police being held accountable

Do you think Oakland police are being held accountable when they use excessive or unreasonable force?

	Percent
Yes, Oakland police are being held accountable for using force	34
No, Oakland police should be held more accountable for using force	58
Oakland police are being unfairly punished for using force	8

- 6. **52% of Oaklanders want greater transparency regarding police misconduct - including the release of all misconduct allegations.** By contrast, only 18% of respondents support the current policy of releasing information on deadly force cases and sustained complaints of serious misconduct, and only 5% of respondents believe no allegations should be made public.

Should allegations and disciplinary action be made public

When officers in Oakland are accused of misconduct should the allegations and any resulting disciplinary action be made public?

	Percent
All allegations of misconduct and any resulting disciplinary action should be made public	52
Only cases where investigators find the allegations to be true should be made public (whether or not the officers are disciplined)	20
Only cases involving the most serious types of misconduct such as deadly force or sexual assault should be made public	18
No records should be made public	5
Only cases where police receive discipline as a result of the allegations should be made public	5

7. **Oaklanders (79%) overwhelmingly support making either the Oakland police department (46%), or the individual officers responsible (33%), pay the financial costs of police misconduct settlements.** Only 1 in 5 respondents (21%) wanted misconduct settlements to be paid from the City's general fund or other sources.

Settlement Money Should Come From

Currently, the City of Oakland pays the costs of police misconduct settlements from its general fund, which is taxpayer money that could otherwise be invested in commun...

	Percent
Misconduct settlements should be paid from the police department budget	46
Misconduct settlements should be paid by the officer who was accused of committing the misconduct	33
Misconduct settlements should continue to be paid from the City's general fund	15
Other	6

8. **56% of Oaklanders want either a community oversight board or local elected officials to decide police disciplinary appeals** while only 29% supported maintaining the existing system of resolving disciplinary appeals through arbitration.

Arbitrators Should Decide On Discipline

When officers in Oakland are disciplined for misconduct they are allowed to appeal the decision and a lawyer called an “arbitrator” has the power to reverse the discipline entire...

	Percent
No, disciplinary appeals should be decided by community members on the board that oversees the police	41
Yes, arbitrators should continue to decide disciplinary appeals	29
No, disciplinary appeals should be decided by Oakland’s city council	12
No, disciplinary appeals should be decided by Oakland’s police chief	10
Other	5
No, disciplinary appeals should be decided by Oakland’s mayor	3

→ POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ The City of Oakland should change the disciplinary appeals process articulated in Section X of the Oakland [police union contract](#) to remove officers’ ability to appeal discipline through arbitration and establish the Police Commission, City Council or Mayor as the decider of police disciplinary appeals. For example, the [Delano CA police union contract](#) gives the City Council the power to overrule an arbitrator’s advice and make final decisions regarding police disciplinary appeals.
- ✓ The City should support state legislation to change Section 832.7 of the California Penal Code to make all allegations of police misconduct public. Pending the adoption of new state legislation, the City should publish individualized stops, use of force, and civilian complaints data with officer identifiers included to permit analyses of the distribution and concentration of police use of force and/or misconduct within the department - and how to prevent it.

- ✓ The City should ensure that the Oakland police department (budget) and/or the individual police officers responsible pay the financial cost of misconduct settlements.

Police Funding

9. **Half of Oaklanders want to cut the Oakland police budget. Fewer than 1 in 5 respondents wanted the OPD budget increased.**

Oakland Police Budget Should Increase Or Decrease

Currently, the City of Oakland spends \$330 million per year on policing — 44.1 percent of the City’s general fund. What do you think should happen to Oakland’s police budget?

	Percent
The police budget should be decreased	49
The police budget should stay the same	33
The police budget should be increased	18

10. Among those who want the OPD budget cut, **most want the funds reallocated to mental health, free and low-cost health services, substance abuse treatment, education, jobs, and affordable housing programs.**

Funding Should Instead Be Spent

Where should the funding that is cut from Oakland's police budget be spent instead? Select all that apply.

	Percent
Mental health services and mental health first responder programs	75
Affordable housing and support for homeless populations	70
Treatment programs for people struggling with substance abuse	62
Public schools	61
Job training for formerly incarcerated people	61
Free and low cost health services	60
Wraparound services for survivors of sexual violence	48
Public transportation	34
Reparations for descendants of African slaves	25
Other	5
None of the above	3

11. In the event of reductions in the force's size, **Oaklanders want officers with the largest records of misconduct removed from the force first.** Civil service rules should be amended to enable officers to be removed from the force based on their misconduct records rather than in order of seniority.

Officers To Remove

If there is a reduction in the number of Oakland police officers due to budget cuts or other changes to policing, which officers should be removed from the force?

	Percent
Officers with the largest number of misconduct complaints against them	54
Officers with the largest number of use of force incidents	19
Officers with the largest racial disparities in stops, arrests and / or other policing actions	14
Officers with the least seniority who are newest to the force	10
Other:	3

→ POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ As the City of Oakland works to reimagine public safety beyond policing, our polling data suggests that mental health and affordable housing are among the most popular areas to reinvest resources reallocated from the OPD budget.
- ✓ Currently, as per section 14.8 of the Oakland [police union contract](#) and section 9.02 of the Personnel Manual, any reduction in the size of the Oakland police force would be required to happen in order of officer seniority - with the newest officers being laid off before more senior officers regardless of their record of past misconduct/behavior. Consistent with most Oaklanders' views, the City should enact new policies that enable future cuts to the police force's size to prioritize removing from the force the officers with the largest records of misconduct.

Respondent Level of Exposure to Policing

As part of our survey, we asked Oaklanders about their previous experiences with law enforcement, ranging from being harmed by police use of force to calling the police for help.

12. **38% of respondents reported having at least one form of police contact**, including 12% of respondents who reported calling the police for help. 12% reported being stopped by police in the past three years, 3% of respondents reported being directly harmed by police use of force, 5% by other forms of police misconduct, and 15% reported knowing a family member or friend who was harmed by police use of force.

Affect Of Policing In Oakland

How has policing in Oakland impacted you? Select all that apply.

	Percent
None of the above	62
A friend or family member has been directly harmed by police use of force	15
I have been stopped by police in the past 3 years	12
I have called the police for help in the past 3 years	12
My neighborhood has been directly harmed by police use of force	11
I have been directly harmed by other forms of police misconduct that are not police use of force	5
I have been directly harmed by police use of force	3

13. **Respondents in Districts 1 and 3 reported the most police contact overall.**

Affect Of Policing In Oakland How has policing in Oakland impacted you? Select all that apply.	Oakland District What district do you live in?							All
	District 1 - NORTH OAKLAND (all of the former No...	District 2 - EASTLAKE / SAN ANTONIO...	District 3 - WEST OAKLAND (all of the former W...	District 4 - CENTRAL OAKLAND (...	District 5 - FRUITVALE / SAN ANTONIO (m...	District 6 - CENTRAL EAST OAKLAND (m...	District 7 - DEEP EAST OAKLAND (all of the for...	
None of the above	48	54	46	86	63	69	69	62
My neighborhood has been directly harmed by police use of force	25	19	6	3	13	0	9	11
I have called the police for help in the past 3 years	8	22	14	4	13	15	7	12
I have been stopped by police in the past 3 years	20	3	18	8	12	9	15	12
I have been directly harmed by police use of force	6	2	3	1	8	0	3	3
I have been directly harmed by other forms of police misconduct that are not police use of force	2	13	7	1	5	4	5	5
A friend or family member has been directly harmed by police use of force	18	12	31	4	21	9	11	15
Unweighted N	59	28	91	58	47	45	184	512

Raheem Race
And what race do you identify with?

Affect Of Policing In Oakland	Asian	Black / African	Latinx	Middle Eastern	Native American	Pacific Islander	South Asian	White	Prefer not to say	All
How has policing in Oakland impacted you? Select all that apply.										
I have been stopped by police in the past 3 years	9	12	17	0	60	78	0	6	9	12
I have called the police for help in the past 3 years	6	18	13	0	33	0	0	10	5	12
I have been directly harmed by police use of force	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3
I have been directly harmed by other forms of police misconduct that are not police use of force	6	10	3	0	0	0	20	4	0	5
A friend or family member has been directly harmed by police use of force	11	30	11	36	28	42	26	7	9	15
My neighborhood has been directly harmed by police use of force	5	10	18	49	0	53	42	5	17	11
None of the above	75	46	58	15	40	11	38	74	78	62
Unweighted N	111	82	40	5	3	4	4	233	8	512

14. People who report having experienced recent police contact were more likely to support cutting the Oakland police budget - even if they were the ones calling the police.

Affect Of Policing In Oakland
How has policing in Oakland impacted you? Select all that apply.

Oakland Police Budget Should Increase Or Decrease	I have been stopped by police in the past 3 years	I have called the police for help in the past 3 years	I have been directly harmed by police use of force	I have been directly harmed by other forms...	A friend or family member has been directly harmed...	My neighborhood has been directly harmed by pol...	None of the above
Currently, the City of Oakland spends \$330 million per year on policing — 44.1 percent of the City's general fund. What do you think should happen to Oakland's police budget?							
The police budget should stay the same	24	18	35	10	21	15	41
The police budget should be increased	3	23	12	33	0	6	20
The police budget should be decreased	73	59	54	57	79	79	39
Unweighted N	54	47	17	26	66	44	343

15. Black Oaklanders and Oaklanders, who had experienced some form of police contact, were more likely to believe Oakland police need to be held more accountable.

Raheem Race
And what race do you identify with?

Are Oakland police behind held accountable	Asian	Black / African	Latinx	Middle Eastern	Native American	Pacific Islander	South Asian	White	All
Do you think Oakland police are being held accountable when they use excessive or unreasonable force?									
Yes, Oakland police are being held accountable for using force	49	32	33	0	60	36	20	31	34
No, Oakland police should be held more accountable for using force	43	60	63	100	40	64	80	58	58
Oakland police are being unfairly punished for using force	8	8	4	0	0	0	0	12	8
Unweighted N	111	82	40	5	3	4	4	233	512

Affect Of Policing In Oakland
How has policing in Oakland impacted you? Select all that apply.

Are Oakland police behind held accountable	I have been stopped by police in the past 3 years	I have called the police for help in the past 3 years	I have been directly harmed by police use of force	I have been directly harmed by other forms...	A friend or family member has been directly harmed...	My neighborhood has been directly harmed by pol...	None of the above
Do you think Oakland police are being held accountable when they use excessive or unreasonable force?							
Yes, Oakland police are being held accountable for using force	28	39	34	26	13	12	41
No, Oakland police should be held more accountable for using force	72	56	63	74	85	84	48
Oakland police are being unfairly punished for using force	0	5	3	0	2	4	11
Unweighted N	54	47	17	26	66	44	343

Deep-Dive: Respondents Most Impacted by Policing

We collaborated with eight Black and brown-led community-based organizations, forming the Advisory Council at Raheem to stay connected and held accountable by Oaklanders. The Advisory Council included the following people and their organizations.

Allyssa Victory, co-chair · [ACLU Foundation of NorCal](#)

Angelo Sandoval · [The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#)

Carolina Martin Ramos, Esq. · [Centro Legal de la Raza](#)

Elisa Cecaci · [The East Oakland Collective](#)

Isha Rosemond · [MISSEY](#)

James Burch, co-chair · [Anti Police-Terror Project](#)

John Jones III · [Just Cities](#)

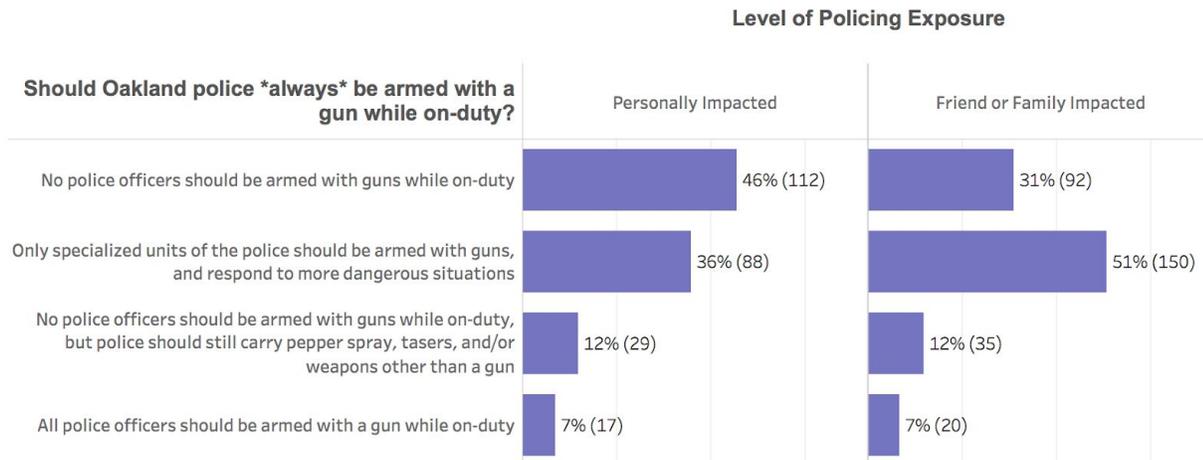
John Vasquez · [Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice](#)

Read more about the Advisory Council at Raheem [here](#).

The Advisory Council distributed the survey to an additional 1,400 Oakland residents by canvassing and digital outreach, providing a more in-depth look into Oakland's communities' perspectives - especially communities most impacted by policing. These responses were generally more supportive of making more transformative changes to policing practices, reducing the police's size and scope, cutting police funding, and supporting non-police based or unarmed police-based responses to most situations.

- 246 respondents indicated they had personally experienced police use of force or police misconduct. Another 297 respondents indicated that while they did not personally experience these forms of police conduct, they had a friend or family member who did.
- Transgender respondents, respondents who indicated they had lived homeless, respondents living with a disability, and Black respondents were more likely to report having personally been harmed by police use of force than other groups.

- Consistent with our initial citywide poll, there was higher support for policing changes among groups with more police contact. Among this group, **58% of people who directly experienced police use of force or misconduct and 43% of those who knew a friend or family member indicated that no officers should be armed with guns while on-duty.**



To learn more about these policing encounters, we obtained additional information from respondents who indicated they had been stopped by police in the past three years, arrested, had police use force, or committed alleged misconduct used against them. Altogether, we obtained information on 252 police encounters from people in Oakland - 178 attributed to Oakland police.

1. **The most common encounter types reported were profiling and physical violence.** For example, one respondent [reported](#) the following *profiling* incident:

Oakland Police officer who was just a regular officer at the time he is currently a Lt. with the City of Oakland his name is Dave Kozicki. I pulled into a Hamburger place called Nations in Oakland to pick up my food at the adjacent lot for at least a few minutes. I come back to my car Lt. Dave Kozicki and his partner stated that I was trespassing and you people, black people think we can do what we want to do." He opened my eyes to verbal abuse cops use towards people of color.

Reports by Encounter Type

profiled	50
physically attacked	35
helped	27
harassed	26
wrongly accused	22
neglected	21
disrespected	19
a witness to misconduct	15
treated badly	15
treated well	10
bullied	2
detained	2
other negative encounter	2
protected	2
treated just ok	2
other positive encounter	1
unspecified grouping	1

2. **Black and Latinx respondents who reported having recent police contact were more likely to report experiencing a negative encounter with police than white respondents.**

Good/Bad Encounter Type by Race

		Black	Latinx	API	White	Multiracial	Other	Unknown
Oakland PD	Bad Encounter	79% 46 reports	88% 15 reports	56% 5 reports	59% 29 reports	95% 18 reports	67% 2 reports	78% 18 reports
	Good Encounter	16% 9 reports	12% 2 reports	33% 3 reports	22% 11 reports		33% 1 reports	17% 4 reports
	Other/Witness	5% 3 reports		11% 1 reports	18% 9 reports	5% 1 reports		4% 1 reports
Other/ Unknown Dept in Oakland	Bad Encounter	95% 18 reports	100% 4 reports	83% 5 reports	58% 11 reports	75% 3 reports		91% 20 reports
	Good Encounter	5% 1 reports		17% 1 reports	32% 6 reports	25% 1 reports		5% 1 reports
	Other/Witness				11% 2 reports			5% 1 reports

Supplement: Sample reports from Oakland residents

Profiled

Pulled over for illegal U-Turn Rookie officer says to me "You are one of those smart motherfuckers." "I bet your momma is a nigger." Then I started screaming at the officer.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=1282>

Peers and I had come back from off campus lunch. A peer had a monthly parking pass with BART and 2 officers pulled up asking why we were going through cars and that we could go to jail for trying to steal cars. We asked if we were free to go and ignored our question. There was a group of white teens behind our group before we were stopped but they didn't even bother looking their way. We were finally let go because we knew our rights and we were underage at the time.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=sfHJlfmej1cC8WUwFwCy>

Physically attacked

I was driving my car and stopped by 7 rider (a Black cop and a Mexican cop) they placed handcuffs so tight that I still have a scar to this day. I was arrested for a DUI and they took me to jail and bumped my head 2 or 3 times into the cement wall No one in the jail did anything and told me that they weren't allowed to tell on another officer. I filed a complaint because a jailer inside told me to go across the street.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=1287>

A group of neighborhood juveniles of color were involved in an altercation near 24th/Adeline/Chestnut St. in W. Oakland. No weapons, just loud teenage threats & name-calling. A neighborhood resident dialed 911 as the number of agitated youths involved had increased, the disagreement had spread from sidewalk to street, & they feared someone might get hurt. By the time police arrived, the altercation had mostly died down of its own accord, the majority of juveniles had left the scene, & neighborhood adults had come out of their homes & commenced to filming w/their phones out of habit. One of the smallest, loudest teens was still present when cops

arrived & exited their vehicles, weapons drawn. A family member was attempting to calm the teen down & get her to go home. Fearing armed police, the girl ran. The cops proceeded to pursue this child from one end of the block to the other, weapons trained on her, on & off the sidewalk, in between parked cars, & out into the street & moving traffic, which they eventually blocked off when more units arrived. The girl was terrified, fearing being shot, but seemed to fear being apprehended even more, certain if they got her in their grips, they'd kill her. Several friends, family members (including the teen's mother), & neighbors, mostly filming, did their best to place their own bodies between the barrage of armed police and this cornered, panicked girl. People from all sides were screaming at the cops to please not shoot, that this was a child they were chasing. All this did was make the officers more irate & threatening to the people of the neighborhood. OPD was literally considering shooting a child for talking crap on the corner & running from them when they trained weapons on her. An elder gentleman from my building convinced her to submit to their will, all the while emphasizing to them that she was just a child & there was no reason to overreact. They proceeded to smash her little screaming face into the filthy street, cuffed her, & tossed her into the back of a squad car. There were 10+ black & whites to choose from, all for one mouthy little girl, who, to this day, I'm not sure what law she broke that warranted such treatment & arrest. Any time we'd inquire as to what she'd done, what charges they were bringing her up on or where they'd be taking her, they'd immediately switch back into crowd-control, bully-mode & start yelling at us to go back inside, threatening us with incarceration for obstructing police officers in the line of duty. And we wonder why our inner-city youth fear, hate, & distrust local law-enforcement.

[What could have been better?]

Re ? concerning police pointing weapons at me - they were pointing guns every which way, not just in my direction. As for date, I don't know exact date this happened as it's been several years past, now. 1st, upon their arrival, they just rushed in, guns drawn, & started chasing kids around, pushing parents & neighbors out of the way, yelling at everyone & looking for someone to take down. No inquiry into nature of conflict, who started it, if anyone had been assaulted or harmed in any way, HOW THEY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, whom amongst the crowd had been involved & in what manner, & who and/or how many people had already fled the scene prior. In my opinion, this type of behavior is the opposite of conflict resolution. As there were no weapons involved in initial incident, no police guns needed be brandished toward the public they claim to protect & serve. To the best of my knowledge, citizens do not call 911 in order to exacerbate a situation - they are in search of peaceful solutions - but that is often the result; & way more than is acceptable (hint: 'tis never acceptable), stunned family members, in retrospect & great sadness, realize all too late that they've just called the cops for assistance with a troubled loved-one to find that beloved cut down in their prime by the very organization sworn to help them. It's heartbreaking, & its frequency mind-boggling.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=vdIL1FudD8ZQCizD4EQx>

Protests

Attending a peaceful protest with high schoolers and was attacked with flash bombs and tear gas 30 min before curfew by 30+ fully armed police w/batons and shields

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=7bTl1n9xmkMNmc32dcGV>

I was kneeling protesting and was fired tear gas at and rubber bullets. The officers gave no warning to disperse. I watched the officer pull the pin and thought, certainly that's not what's about to happen. And then we were all running and screaming.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=BI4wZKeRoUuXTq5zB4La>

This is actually in reference to recent protests in downtown. There have been multiple incidents at multiple protests but I will describe the most recent. A relatively small crowd of protesters took to marching around the downtown area a week or so ago and SO MANY officers surrounded the march, from behind and along the side, throughout the march. They may have actually outnumbered protesters, definitely towards the end of the march. I was at the back of the march along with many elder attendees, minors, and some disabled folks too. The officers periodically forced themselves through the most vulnerable parts of the crowd to infiltrate the bloc. They separated friends from each other using their bodies, with no respect to people's boundaries. They also talked shit and laughed about the protesters the whole time and many did not wear masks properly or at all. One kept on making inappropriate jokes that I was trying to hold their hand when I held out my arms to make myself bigger, which obviously isn't the worst kind of comment but still felt gross and inappropriate. When they pushed through the crowd they used their bodies against smaller and frailer people. After doing this several times and retreating, they pushed through again to actually set off tear gas and flash bangs in the middle of the bloc and grab individual protesters to arrest. I did not see any of the arrests in action but after the gas cleared, they were putting several attendees in uncomfortable and painful positions to handcuff them even when these detainees voiced clearly that the force was not necessary, again many officers were not wearing masks and not adjusting attendees masks who did not have their hands free to do so themselves. Then the police left many of the folks handcuffed sitting against the wall for a long time and would not disclose any information about why they were being detained. They also did not tell the detainees why they were being detained. I realize this story is probably very common and not quite individual. But I want to emphasize the terrorizing tactics the police use as a whole unit, as well as as individuals.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=crIsklZljkPNNnUxKhx6>

During the first weekend of protest 14 St. was gridlocked by a caravan. I was standing on the corner of 14th and Broadway. Suddenly a dozen police descended on one of the cars with guns drawn. When the driver fled their car the police chased him into the intersection, guns still drawn with hundreds of people standing nearby. When the driver reached a crowd of people the police through flash grenades and tear gas into the crowd and began forcibly moving members of the crowd to reach the driver. The driver was eventually grappled and thrown to the ground. At which point the police ordered the crowd to disperse, guns still in hand.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=ZcV2p5eOI2tNT5tA6xve>

Peaceful protestors tear gassed by OPD. After the rally ended I was lingering in downtown and started walking down Broadway. There was a small group of people of what looked like mostly students and adults -(parents?). I was hearing some chants from the group as I approached. Next thing I saw was tear gas being launched towards me. The curfew was still about 15 minutes away. I saw no reason for the police violence and (mostly) kids.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=FzAyrgrtjBB3CKwptOq>

Police should not have been involved

My abusive ex-husband wanted to punish me for crying and depressive actions caused by his emotional abuse. He called the police on me and told the police to take me to an insane asylum against my will. The police did not drag me to a mental hospital because I did not fit the criterion of "danger to self or others." However they did not offer me any help or access to mental health services, or understand that I was a domestic violence victim, even though it should have been easy to figure out. They told my ex-husband that he should find out why I was upset and left the building. I was so frightened by having the police called on me that in the future I stopped crying when he abused me because I was frightened of the police and didn't want them called on me again. The police's response to the situation was ignorant rather than actively harmful, but had a knowledgeable social worker responded rather than the police they would have been able to comprehend the situation and I might have been able to leave a dangerous relationship years earlier. My abusive ex used calling the police as a terror tactic against me. This is actually a common tactic for abusers and many DV victims have similar stories.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=EirXY4bePAi1IBi5Kyul>

A homeless person was being harassed by officers for resting near an abandoned building. The encounter with this individual became physical only when the police interrogated them for almost 30 minutes. There were more than 5 police units present for one citizen. The citizen was arrested
<https://raheem.org/story/?id=QiccoBDaxut2mxv9mZXf>

Some white lady called the cops on a Black homeless person for having a mental health crisis near our apartment. I went to see what was going on and prepared to videotape / physically protect the person having the psych episode if things went bad - I asked what was going on calmly, and I got yelled at by both the police officer and the lady who called the police. When I tried to get closer the cop pushed me, targeting my chest and groped me, and threatened to charge me for "disturbing the peace". That day I fully understood the meaning of the term "cop a feel" ... fucking disgusting

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=bU3dvcYDPfQSBFUmuHE>

A woman was abusing my father, for months. The police never took us seriously and the woman was never apprehended. Over and over again she was allowed to leave the scene and never held accountable for hitting a 73 year old man

[What would have been better?] Someone with experience in mental health to come take us seriously and take the woman away. Take her away and get her real help. She is bipolar and abuses drugs and hit my senior father.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=sEFRexbVheCwPNw74xnr>

I witnessed a woman having a mental break. She was endangering herself, and myself and other neighbors called OPD. We were on hold, for a long time. My wife and I tried to engage the woman and give her food and water. She was receptive but in obvious need of help. While we were on hold trying to get through to OPD, I saw several police cars a few blocks away. I drove over and spoke with them. They came over and addressed this woman. Of the 10 or so officers who were here, there was only one or two who actually seemed like they were trying to help. Some of the officers seemed like they were interrogating her which was not helpful. One female officer who was trying to figure out how to help this woman, spoke with us and got some information that we had gathered. In the end, I felt like the police were not the right people to respond. I have experienced so many instances where the police arrive too late or not at all when help is needed... or arrive with way too many officers for situations that are under control. In the over 20 years I have been living in Oakland, my experience with the police responses to situations is almost always disappointing.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=qG3DJDDJqLxDPXgSOr0J>

Training

After leading a training on identifying and responding to commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) for Oakland Police Department officers and other city employees, I was sexually harassed upon leaving the training site. As I walked away from the training on foot, a group of 3 police officers and 4 fire fighters encircled me. One of them grabbed the necklace off my chest and complimented how pretty it was. I tried to turn away but I was enclosed by the circle of men. I smiled and said I needed to leave, to which an officer replied I shouldn't be so quick to walk away, and then proceeded to ask me out for a drink. I said I was not interested, and again said I needed to leave. I asked again, more firmly stating "please let me pass" and they opened a space large enough for me to walk through, but small enough that I had to brush against two of them. As I left quickly, i heard them say "what a fuckin nice piece of ass."

[What could have been better?]

They should never have approached me. This also made me lose faith in advocating for training as a solution for poor behavior. The training was mandatory for all cops as a response to the exploitation experienced by Celeste Guap at the hands of police officers. For these officers to then go to a training ALL ABOUT sexual exploitation and then literally harass and objectify someone right after showed how little they had internalized and how little they cared.

<https://raheem.org/story/?id=slhYeXxk3GpJUPw108Fc>