



San Leandro Community Police Review Board

Pretextual Traffic Stops Ad Hoc Committee Report

May 21, 2025



Ad Hoc Committee Charge

- ✓ To discuss a critical aspects of policing that have significant implications for community trust and public safety: pretextual traffic stops.
- ✓ Look into RIPA data that highlights substantial racial disparities and examine how that data connects to pretextual traffic stops.
- ✓ Identify alternative methods and discuss training programs for the police department.

Steps Taken

- ✓ Researched incidents as they pertain to the pretextual traffic stops
- ✓ Met as an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss data and approach to learning more about SLPD's use of pretextual traffic stops
- ✓ Drafted and sent questions to Chief Averiett
- ✓ Reviewed responses and insights from Chief Averiett
- ✓ Met with Chief Averiett and her team to discuss pretextual traffic stops, policies, community concerns and trainings



Discussion

CPRB Ad Hoc Committee Meeting to Discuss Pre-Text Stops

Wednesday April 9th, 2025, 11:00 am.

San Leandro Police Department

Good afternoon, Chief. Today, we're here to discuss a critical aspect of policing that has significant implications for community trust and public safety: pretextual traffic stops. As you're aware, our San Leandro Police Review Board Ad Hoc Committee has been reviewing police policy on this matter, particularly in light of the recent RIPA data that highlights substantial racial disparities.

The data shows that in 2022, over 4.5 million stops were conducted by 535 agencies in California, with Black individuals being stopped 131.5% more frequently than expected given their proportion of the population. Moreover, the majority of stops were for traffic violations, which raises questions about the effectiveness and fairness of these stops.

Our review board has been exploring alternative approaches to pretextual stops, including the policies implemented by the Los Angeles Police Department and the state of Virginia. The LAPD's new policy, which restricts traffic stops to only those that significantly interfere with public safety or involve suspicion of a serious crime, has shown promising results. According to the data, this policy has led to an overall reduction in stops and searches, a slight increase in discovery rates, and a decrease in disparities in stops involving Black individuals.

Similarly, Virginia's primary and secondary traffic enforcement system has contributed

Issues Raised

~~explicitly or implicitly—as a factor in the decision to initiate a stop, unless those~~
characteristics are part of a suspect-specific description based on credible information. This reflects our commitment to both the Fourth Amendment’s protections against unreasonable searches and seizures and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

While SLPD does not have a standalone policy on pretextual stops, our overall traffic enforcement policies are grounded in principles of constitutional policing, fairness, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Officers are trained to ensure that any stop—whether of a vehicle or pedestrian—is lawful, professional, and conducted without bias.

2. Do SLPD patrol officers, traffic division officers, or any other division of SLPD perform pretextual traffic stops?

Yes. Patrol officers, traffic enforcement officers, and other specialized units are authorized to conduct traffic stops, including stops that may be considered pretextual. However, each stop must be based on a lawful and objective reason, such as a vehicle code violation or warrant hit and must comply with department policy and constitutional requirements.

3. Is there training or guidance within the SLPD on use of discretion and how to conduct pretextual traffic stops? Does it include implicit bias training?

SLPD provides foundational and ongoing training on officer discretion, constitutional policing, and ethical conduct. All officers receive training at the academy level and throughout their careers as part of our continuous professional development program.

IN AMERICA

Two Virginia Beach officers killed in shooting during traffic stop

Police said the suspect was found dead hours later with a “gunshot wound to the head” they believe was “self-inflicted.”



Issues Raised

Collaboration & Solutions

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Closing Statement

The San Leandro Police Department remains firmly committed to **constitutional policing** rooted in dignity, objectivity, and accountability. We welcome community input and scrutiny, and we pledge to continuously examine and improve our practices, especially where they intersect with concerns about fairness, bias, and the responsible use of discretion.

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Questions?

On behalf
of the CPRB,

Thank you!

