

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2025

OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION STATEMENT ON POLICE PURSUIT POLICY AND THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DR. MARVIN BOOMER

The Oakland Police Commission extends its deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Marvin Boomer, whose tragic death last Wednesday after a California Highway Patrol police pursuit has profoundly affected not only his family and friends, but the entire City of Oakland. The circumstances surrounding his loss highlight the complexity of the challenges surrounding police pursuits and public safety in Oakland. We must respond with urgency to ensure that Dr. Boomer's passing serves as a catalyst for meaningful change, transforming these ripples of trauma into waves of solutions and hope for our city, both through systemic reforms and individual support.

The Oakland Police Chief recently proposed changes to the Oakland Police Department's pursuit policy, which the Commission will review in the coming weeks. However, the Commission must emphasize that revisions to the pursuit policy alone will not resolve the underlying issues that led to this heartbreaking loss. Police pursuits are a complex, multifaceted problem requiring urgent, coordinated action across city leadership, public safety agencies, and community partners.

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We respectfully call on the City Council's Public Safety Committee, the Department of Violence Prevention, the Oakland Police Department, and violence prevention stakeholders to come together, work closely, and join us in taking full responsibility for addressing these issues. This collaboration must include a thorough review of the pursuit policy's alignment with broader public safety strategies, development of an enhanced community provider system of care, investments in technology and resources for safer apprehension methods, and clear public messaging that communicates a significant shift in our city's approach.

The focus must remain on implementing community-centered, evidence-based strategies that both address those at the center of violence whose actions impact public safety, while providing robust support and resources to those most affected. The Commission is committed to completing its task of reviewing the Oakland Police Department's pursuit policy. Other city agencies and stakeholders must similarly pledge to carry out their critical roles to ensure that Oakland residents receive the decisive and comprehensive solutions they deserve to prevent further loss of life and build a safer city.

Yours Sincerely,

Ricardo Garcia-Acosta

Chair

Oakland Police Commission

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