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County of San Diego CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD

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Transparency in accordance with applicable law is a cornerstone of the San Diego County Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (Review Board). As the Executive Officer, I believe clear and unambiguous information is critical to the effectiveness of the Review Board, thus increasing stakeholder and public confidence in and perception of the Review Board.

As an agency, the Review Board is comprised of an Executive Officer, a Supervising Special Investigator, five Special Investigators, an Administrative Analyst II, and Administrative Secretary III (CLERB staff) and 11 Board of Supervisors-appointed volunteer members (CLERB).

When CLERB staff complete investigations, they recommend a finding for each allegation and provide a rationale for each finding to assist CLERB during its case deliberations. Per the Review Board Rules and Regulations, the CLERB is the final arbiter on allegation findings, not CLERB staff. The publication of CLERB staff recommended findings and rationales on meeting agendas and in Hearing Notices, sent to complainants and subject officers prior to the CLERB's final adoption, leads to confusion and mixed messaging when the full CLERB, after deliberating a case, adopts final findings different than those recommended by CLERB staff.

CLERB's adoption of different findings may tend to indicate that CLERB staff and the CLERB produce two end products, when, in fact, the only findings of record are those contained within the CLERB Final Report, documented in the Final Notices sent to each complainant and subject officer and Final Finding Report published on the CLERB website. The publication of CLERB staff recommended findings has been misconstrued by complainants, subject officers, community members, and the media to indicate those findings were CLERB's final findings.

Effective July 1, 2022, CLERB staff recommended findings and rationales will no longer be published on meeting agendas or listed in Hearing Notices. The agenda and Hearing Notices will only contain the allegations and policy recommendations to be considered during CLERB's closed session case deliberations.

After the meeting in which the case is deliberated, Final Notices containing CLERB's final finding and rationale for each allegation will be sent to the complainant and subject officers. A Final Finding Report containing all final findings and rationales adopted at the meeting will be published on the Review Board's website.

Please know that the Review Board will continue to take all appropriate steps to be as transparent as permitted by law, all the while minimizing confusion and dissemination of misinformation.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Parker III Executive Officer