



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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Kelly A. Martinez
Undersheriff

Anthony C. Ray, Sheriff

May 20, 2022

Susan N. Youngflesh, Board Chairperson
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board
555 West Beech Street, Suite 505
San Diego, CA 92101-3819

CLERB POLICY RECOMMENDATION: EXPANSION OF SDDS FAMILY LIASION PROGRAM

Dear Chairperson Youngflesh,

The Sheriff's Department welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of this organization and in-custody deaths. We continuously strive to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

On April 12, 2022, CLERB recommended the following policy change related to San Diego County Sheriff's Department Detention's Policy and Procedure.

1. It is recommended that the SDDS update P&P Section 6.134 entitled, "Family Liaison Protocol," to mandate that the Family Liaison, or designee, meet with the family at the conclusion of the investigation into a shooting, use of force resulting in significant injury or death, or an in-custody death. The purpose of the meeting will be to advise the family of the investigative outcome, answer questions, and provide information when appropriate. As currently stated in the P&P, when information cannot be released, the family will be provided with an explanation, follow-up, or referrals to appropriate agencies.

Prior to the receipt of this recommendation, the Sheriff's Department had already begun an internal review of P&P 6.134 and the Family Liaison Protocol. As a result of the internal review, specific personnel were assigned FLO duties, and internal mechanisms were implemented to track the FLO's successful contacts and unsuccessful attempts to contact the decedent's family for the purpose of providing them with information about their loved one. These changes will be sufficient to address CLERB's core concerns, without requiring any change to the current P&P section.

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In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board. We would like to thank you for your service to the Citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendations. It is our goal to provide the "Highest quality public safety services" to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY C. RAY, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Greenawald', is written over the typed name.

Edward A. Greenawald, Lieutenant
Office of the Sheriff
Division of Inspectional Services
ACR:EAG/kb