

SOMa Police Action Demands

Sponsored by SOMa Justice, the Black Parents Workshop, MAPSO Freedom School, the Community Coalition on Race, and SOMa Action

As it relates to the July 5 incidence:

1. Fire or demote the police officers involved in the July 5 attacks
2. Conduct a national search for our next police chief that will include community members on search committee
3. Create a police civilian affairs unit specifically trained to deal with large-scale public events and large crowds (especially families and young people). Ensure the unit utilizes proven best practices and publicize which models are being trained on to the general community.
4. Create a specific plan to make sure what happened never happens again

As it relates to the police in general:

1. End broken windows policing
 - a. End arrests for minor “broken windows” offenses, including: consumption of alcohol on the streets, marijuana possession, Disorderly Conduct, Trespassing, Loitering, Disturbing the Peace (including Loud Music), Spitting, Jaywalking, Bicycling on the Sidewalk
 - b. End profiling, including but not limited to
 - i. Perceived or actual immigration status, age, housing status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, HIV status, race, religion and national origin as protected groups
 - ii. Ban stops for matching a generalized description of a suspect (i.e. black male ages 15-25)
 - iii. Require officers to establish objective justification for making a stop and to report every stop including location, race, gender, whether force was used and whether a firearm was found.
 - iv. End the use of predictive policing technology, which uses systematically biased data to enhance police profiling of black people and communities
2. Community oversight
 - a. Establish effective civilian oversight structures, including the developing of an independent data tracking system that includes key demographic information like race/ethnicity for all incidence reports, including traffic stops and ICE detainer requests
 - b. Remove barriers to reporting police misconduct, including publicly posting the IA process and estimated timelines and ensuring that those making complaints have a right to follow up from the department.
 - c. The formation of a youth advisory committee of young people who can help monitor and report on youth-police interaction
 - d. Convene a commission of local scholars and experts to figure out how to implement proposed policy changes in police department based on research-based best practices
3. Limit use of force
 - a. Revise and strengthen local police department use of force policies
 - b. Monitor how police use force and proactively hold officers accountable for excessive force
 - c. Create a police unit designed and trained specifically to deal with crowds and large scale events without excessive force
4. Community representation
 - a. Increase the number of police officers who reflect the communities they serve
 - b. Use community feedback to inform police department policies and practices (e.g., through an annual survey)

5. Body cams/film the police
 - a. Require the use of body cameras - in addition to dashboard cameras - and establish policies governing their use*
 - b. Ban police officers from taking cell phones or other recording devices without a person's consent or warrant and give people the right to sue police departments if they take or destroy these devices
6. Training
 - a. Invest in rigorous and sustained de-escalation training
 - b. Intentionally consider 'unconscious' or 'implicit' racial bias
 - c. Co-training with police forces from other municipalities
7. End for-profit policing
 - a. End official or unofficial police department quotas for tickets and arrests
 - b. Limit fines and fees for low-income people
 - c. Prevent police from taking the money or property of innocent people
 - d. Require police departments to bear the cost of misconduct
8. Demilitarization: Establish local restrictions to prevent police departments from purchasing or using military weaponry
9. Fair police contracts
 - a. Remove barriers to effective misconduct investigations and civilian oversight
 - b. Keep officers' disciplinary history accessible to police departments and the public
 - c. Ensure financial accountability for officers and police departments that kill or seriously injure civilians
 - d. New hiring practices for senior level police officers that include civilian input/approval
 - e. Tenure cap on police leadership

**Noting that any control of technology by police may be problematic*