

For decades, the Oakland Police Department and significant portions of the greater Oakland community have had a rocky relationship. In the late 1970's the Citizens Police Review Board, (CPRB) was formed in response to a shooting of a teenager by the Oakland Police.

For years the CPRB was seen by many as being very biased toward the police. Citizens could make their complaints and appeal to the CPRB, but the police could determine when and if they wanted to attend a particular hearing as they were only required to attend in person 60% of the time.

In the 1990's the ACLU and PUEBLO (People United for a Better Oakland) challenged the relationship of the Police Department to the CPRB. The Memorandum of Understanding between the police and the CPRB was considered a "closed-door" matter and a part of the Oakland Police Officers Association (OPOA) employment contract. When the Court rejected this the relationship between the community and the police, the result was greater transparency and a stronger community voice and presence.

Then the Oakland Police Department Riders Case happened in the early 2000's and the Police Department was placed under a Federal Monitor. The Monitor was to see that new regulations were completed within a five-year period. These requirements still have not all been completely met.

Then just a few years ago, the Department was once again rocked with scandal as it was revealed that several police officers had had sex with an underage woman, the daughter of a police dispatcher. The Department was once again thrown into disarray and, at one point, Oakland had three police chiefs in a matter of weeks.

The frustration the community felt with the Police Department was brought to a vote in 2016. Measure LL, establishing the Police Commission, was approved by a significant majority of the voters. The Commission, an independent agency of the City, has had a challenging time getting started. The Commission members, chosen jointly by the Mayor and the community have had a steep learning curve in how to be a working Commission. . There have been significant differences of opinion between the Commission and the City Attorney's office over the relationship of this Commission to the City. The League's Observer Corp has been monitoring the Commission for many months

On February 20th, the League will hold its first **Speakers Series** of 2019 at **Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, 1188 12<sup>th</sup> St in Oakland**. We will be hearing from Captain Ersie Joyner of the Oakland Police Department.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> we will again meet at Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church for the League's Hot **Topics** meeting, an in depth discussion of the Police Commission. Come join us on both dates.