

Austin Police Accountability Coalition (APAC) Calls on City Leaders to Settle with the People of Austin "RALLY FOR REFORM" PRESS CONFERENCE: 11:45 am in front of City Hall

APAC is group of organizations and individuals who are dedicated to common principles of meaningful police accountability for the Austin Police Department. APAC seeks to make changes to the City of Austin government structure to gain transparency and accountability in securing that APD is working for the people.

"Austin Police Accountability Coalition (APAC) supports the Sanders family in their efforts to seek justice. Although APAC is not taking a position on whether the settlement is the best course of action for the Sanders family or the City, we recognize that the proposed settlement does nothing to correct the systematic failures that the Sanders case brought to light. We want to know when will our City leaders take action to settle with the people of Austin and fix our broken system of police accountability so that this does not happen again?"

- Tane ("Tah-neh") Ward, APAC member

In 2001, the people of Austin made our police officers the highest paid in the nation. We were promised real police accountability in return for our investment, but we still don't have it. APD continues to treat people on the east side with unnecessary excessive force and continues to take human lives under questionable circumstances. Austin's city attorney resigned in disgrace after the KeyPoint scandal where he covered up an independent investigation from the public because it criticized the officer.

"The people of Austin still lack meaningful police oversight and our city leaders continue to remain silent."

- Stefanie Collins, APAC member

The group is meeting weekly in a new community organizing space (5604 Manor), mere blocks from the site of the Nathaniel Sanders, II shooting-death, as our group has been mobilized by events and failings surrounding this matter. Some **SOLUTIONS** we've developed to date and are currently bringing before Councilmembers are:

- **Place the Police Monitor's Office (PMO)/Citizens Review Panel (CRP) under the City Auditor** instead of the City Manager; the Auditor answers to the Mayor/Council who answer to the community.
- **Grant the PMO/CRP subpoena power.**
- **City ordinance.** Move the civilian oversight system out of the police union contract and into a city ordinance so the people of Austin have a say in how it operates.
- **Require an independent entity to train the CRP** instead of the APD internal affairs division. The people who produce the work the CRP is reviewing should not be the same people who train them how to review it - it is a conflict of interest.
- **Open CRP meetings to the public** - or allow complainants to choose whether to have their meeting open to the public.
- **Grant the PMO/CRP its own legal counsel**, or grant independent legal counsel to the City Auditor that would be at their disposal...whether on staff or as an independent contracted entity.
- **Increase the CRP to have 9 members who each represent a different APD geographic sector.**
- **Allow public access to police misconduct files.** Misconduct files are public in 90% of the cities and towns in Texas, as well as the Travis County Sheriff's Office and for all other City of Austin employees.
- **Expand practice of the PMO/CRP making policy recommendations** to the City Council, City Manager and APD Chief.
- **Require regular random drug testing police officers**, as authorized but not required in the current police contract, and institute automatic testing in force & accident situations.
- **Include the "Preservation of Life" clause** in APD's Use of Force ("Response to Resistance") Policy.

APAC will challenge each and every Councilmember to take on specific tasks in our community project. We plan on working hard now in preparation of work the next meet and confer contract negotiations, beginning in 2012.

"Let's hope Council gracefully accepts this challenge to the fullest and starts to rebuild the broken trust as they fix the broken processes." - Bishop Sterling Lands, II, APAC supporter