



CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

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May 6, 2021

Alan Ehrlich



RE: Conclusion of independent investigation into citizen complaint regarding police encounter on September 22, 2020 regarding South Pasadena Municipal Code

In response to a citizen complaint alleging that the South Pasadena Police Department targeted Fahren James on or about September 22, 2020 by providing her with a copy of the City of South Pasadena Municipal Code prohibiting the posting or affixing of signs within the public right-of-way, the City hired independent investigator, Garon Wyatt Investigative Services, to perform an investigation the complaint, as required by Penal Code Section 832.5 and South Pasadena Police Department Police No. 1013.

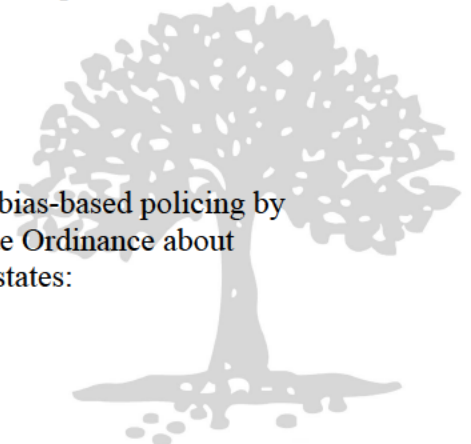
The investigation's scope was to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding allegations that Officer Chris Perez or Sergeant Robert Bartl unfairly targeted Fahren James on September 22, 2020, by providing James with a copy of the city of South Pasadena Municipal Code prohibiting posting/affixing of signs within the City's right-of-way. The investigation included determining whether Bartl or Perez were motivated by a bias against James in violation of SPPD Policy Manual section 401.4. The resulting investigative report is a confidential personnel record pursuant to Penal Code Section 832.7 and is not disclosable.

This letter summarizes the allegations regarding each officer regarding the September 22, 2020 incident and the findings and conclusions of the investigator.

Allegations regarding Officer Chris Perez

ALLEGATION #1:

It is alleged that on September 22, 2020, Officer Chris Perez engaged in bias-based policing by providing Fahren James with a copy of a South Pasadena Municipal Code Ordinance about posting signs, in violation of SPPD Policy Manual section 401.4, which states:



The South Pasadena Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this Department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

Finding: UNFOUNDED. Based on the preponderance of the evidence, the investigator concluded that the evidence does not support a finding that Officer Perez's actions were motivated by a bias toward James's race, culture, or other differences. This allegation is therefore unfounded.

Allegations Regarding Sergeant Robert Bartl

ALLEGATION #1

It is alleged that on September 22, 2020, Sergeant Robert Bartl engaged in bias-based policing by directing Officer Perez to give Fahren James a copy of a South Pasadena Municipal Code about posting of signs, in violation of SPPD Policy Manual section 401.4, which states:

The South Pasadena Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this Department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

Finding: UNFOUNDED. Based on the preponderance of the evidence, the investigator concluded that the evidence does not support a finding that Sergeant Bartl's actions were motivated by a bias toward James's race, culture, or other differences. This allegation is therefore unfounded.

This concludes the independent investigation of the citizen's complaint regarding the South Pasadena Police Department encounter with a member of the public on September 22, 2020 as described above. The City takes all citizen complaints seriously and is committed to thoroughly investigate such complaints and take appropriate retraining and disciplinary action when necessary, in accordance with the personnel rights of employees.

Respectfully,

Sean Joyce

Sean Joyce
Interim City Manager

cc: Mayor and Council
Public Safety Commission
Police Chief Solinsky

