

Police Review Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

November 4, 2003

TO: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

FROM: Police Review Commission (PRC)

SUBJECT: Commendation For Berkeley Police Department And Mental Health For Outstanding
Work

INFORMATION:

The PRC took action to formally commend the women and men of the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) and the Division of Mental Health of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for their sensitive and humane handling of the standoff with the barricaded suspect on August 10-11, 2003.

BACKGROUND:

In its role of oversight of the BPD, the PRC was inspired to recognize the careful work of officers and mental health workers involved in the handling of this serious incident. Faced with a suspect who fired gunshots at police officers, superficially wounding one officer, BPD and Mental Health workers negotiated for 24 hours and were able to end the standoff peacefully with the surrender of the suspect. Their patience and skill in handling this difficult, dangerous incident serves as an important positive example to officers and mental health workers in other jurisdictions faced with similar situations.

The handling of this incident with respect for the welfare of all members of the community is a testament to the message of quality service and inter-departmental co-operation that has been embraced by city employees and those in leadership positions in the City of Berkeley.

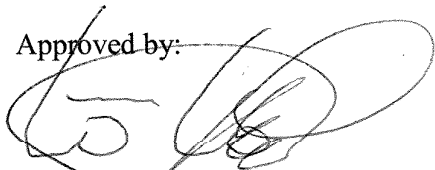
The PRC action at its September 10, 2003 meeting was as follows: Sherman/Radisch (Moved/Seconded) to forward an item to Council to praise the work of BPD and Mental health for their excellent work during this incident. Passed—Ayes: Radisch, Ritchie, Sanchez-Resnik, Sheen, Sherman, White; Abstain: Sternberg; Absent: DeBose; One vacant position.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

CONTACT PERSONS:

William White, Chair, Police Review Commission
Barbara Attard, Police Review Commission Officer

Approved by: 
William C. White
Chair, PRC