

July 17, 2024

Michael Guanaco, Independent Police Auditor  
Stephen Connolly, Independent Police  
Auditor 6510 E. Spring St. #613  
Long Beach, CA 90815

Dear Modesto Independent Police Auditors,

On behalf of the Modesto/Stanslaus National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), I am writing to request that you conduct an independent assessment of the Modesto Police Departments (MPD) past policies, practices, procedures and data collections/reporting processes regarding use of force.

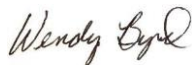
This request is prompted after reading the Modesto Bee article dated June 25, 2024 titled, **“Black residents experienced disproportionate use of force by Modesto police over past decade.”** According to the article, African Americans make up only 4% of the population but nearly 17% of use-of-force cases committed by the MPD since 2013. Given that you have access to relevant internal affairs records, personnel files, historical data and an advanced level of experience in identifying racial inequities within multiple police departments, we ask that you conduct a thorough assessment of the MPD’s patterns and practices of use of force, particularly as it relates to African Americans.

We would like to know the methods used to analyze the context of police encounters and how it is used in determining racial biases, racial profiling, traffic stops, age groups, race, times, locations of occurrences and other data that can provide more insight into the disproportionate use of force against African Americans.

We are requesting that you not only make a presentation to the Community Police Review Board (CPRB) in which I am a member of, but that you also make a presentation to the community at an NAACP general meeting to discuss your evidenced-based findings and recommendations. Please note that a copy of your written report will be forwarded to our state and national office where it will also be reviewed by other civil rights scholars.

In closing, I am pleased to say that I believe that our current police chief, Brandon Gillespie has proven through actions to be willing to work collaboratively with community organizations, the CPRB and others in improving relations in Modesto between police and community.

Sincerely,



Wendy Byrd, President

cc Derek Johnson, President/CEO  
Rick Calendar, CA/Hawaii State President  
Community Police Review Board (CPRB)  
Joe Lopez, City Manager  
Brandon Gillespie, Modesto Police Chief