



# LONG BEACH POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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February 8, 2019

Jamila Henderson  
Senior Associate, PolicyLink  
1438 Webster Street  
Suite 303  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Henderson,

I was recently made aware of the PolicyLink report you authored entitled "*Equitable Growth Profile of the City of Long Beach.*" Over the next several months, I am sure our elected officials will be studying and debating the data and recommendations to formulate future policy.

My attention was specifically drawn to page 11 of the summary document which stated:

*"The relationships are frayed between law enforcement and communities of color and immigrant communities. The police department has a tarnished legacy of racial bias dating back historically to an alleged connection to the Ku Klux Klan. More recently, tensions have emerged between police and African American, Latinx, and Asian youth, and rates of incarceration and police shootings tend to be higher than average for these youth. Instead of tough-on-crime tactics, the focus should be on demarcation and approaches that combat racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Stronger relationships are also needed between police and immigrant businesses."*

My understanding is that the sentence referring to the Ku Klux Klan has since been redacted, and the rest of the statement is now at the top of page 10 within the summary.

As law enforcement professionals, our officers take great pride in their work, and I want to ensure any concerns regarding our customer service or professionalism are immediately addressed.

Unfortunately, the statement above did not come with a footnote or stated source. The only given reference was a comment on page 9 that noted there were "interviews with community residents, activists, advocates, elected officials and civic leaders." There was no mention of the sampling size, academic accuracy, or validation of the statement, yet it appears to be listed as a fact derived from the work done within this research project.

I am aware of two professional polls that were done by a validated polling company within the last few years that asked about the favorability of our police department. Both polls revealed that our Long Beach police officers had a favorable rating across all demographics citywide. I was unaware that another validated source had conflicting data, so I am extremely interested in how you came to this conclusion. I'm confident you must have used a certified source, otherwise this statement would really be nothing more than a wild supposition based on random interviews.

Could you please supply the methodology used to come to the conclusion listed in the highlighted statement?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



JAMES T. FOSTER  
President

cc: Pat West, City Manager  
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager  
Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager  
Charlie Parkin, City Attorney  
Robert Luna, Chief of Police