



POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM

PERF Statement Regarding San Diego Study

Questions that have been raised about PERF's professional relationship with former San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne require an understanding of how PERF conducts its work.

PERF has relationships with nearly every major city police chief and other law enforcement leaders at the local, state, and federal levels. It is through our daily contacts with these officials and the research that we conduct in police departments that PERF develops expertise on the best policies, practices and programs in law enforcement.

We could not conduct our research on the critical issues in policing without this access to police leaders nationwide.

At the same time, we carefully guard our reputation for independence and integrity in the reports that we produce about best practices nationwide, and about individual law enforcement agencies.

For example, earlier this week PERF filed a report with the Miami Beach Police Department, following a number of controversial incidents in that city. The PERF report was the subject of this article in the Miami Herald¹, and the full text of the PERF report is available at <http://media.miamiherald.com/smedia/2014/06/25/22/04/qPv5O.So.56.pdf>.

To mention another example, several weeks ago PERF's report on use of force by U.S. Customs and Border Protection was the subject of many news media articles.² The full text of PERF's report is available at <http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/PERFReport.pdf>.

PERF also produces reports that advance the entire field of policing by focusing on particular issues. In the last few years, these reports have addressed the police response to mass shooting incidents; cybercrime; improving investigations of sexual assaults; reducing police use of force in encounters with persons with mental illness; controlling the use of Electronic Control Weapons such as Tasers; the role of police in immigration enforcement; and many other matters³.

We believe that PERF's work product for more than three decades demonstrates our independence and reputation as an organization that makes sound recommendations based on our knowledge of best practices in policing. Our judgment is informed by our research in police agencies and our daily discussions with police leaders nationwide.

¹ "Auditors Recommend Changes to Miami Beach Police After Controversies." The Miami Herald. June 25, 2014. <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/06/25/4201751/auditors-recomend-changes-to-miami.html>

² See, for example, <http://cironline.org/blog/post/border-agency-releases-report-use-force-and-revised-guidelines-6418> and <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/secretcy-lifted-border-agencys-use-force-n118731>

³ These and many other PERF reports are available at <http://www.policeforum.org/free-online-documents>.