

Police Commission Meeting on SFPD Transparency

Thursday, January 10, 10:30 AM at SFPD headquarters, 1245 Third St.

[48 Hills writes](#): **The San Francisco Police Commission has been holding community meetings** to discuss how and when police reports should be made available to crime victims and their families, and will [discuss the issue](#) in a special hearing **Thursday/10**. There are much bigger issues here: The state Legislature has [finally passed a bill that allows public access to some police disciplinary records](#), and that took effect Jan. 1. We are all still dealing with the issues created by the [state Supreme Court in the Copley Press](#) decision.

And the entire issue of police reports ought to be discussed. Years ago, reporters (or any member of the public) could ask for and get a police report on any incident. That's the case in many other states. But the SFPD doesn't do that anymore; all that the department will release is the basic, minimum information (the name of a person arrested and the charges).

There's no state law that bars the release of police reports. The SFPD could go back to its old practice of making them public, and the commission could make that a general order. I have told several police chiefs that the current policy is silly: Police reports offer the officers' side of the story – and only the officers's side. The reports are what the cops say happened (and their interviews with witnesses). Why would the department not want to make that public?

The meeting starts at 10:30 at SFPD headquarters, 1245 Third St.

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