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OAKLAND'S OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL PUBLISHES POLICY REVIEWS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

[Oakland, CA] - The City of Oakland's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) announced today the publication of two policy review and assessment reports focused on the Oakland Police Department's (OPD) Department General Order (DGO) O-1: Persons with Mental Illness and DGO O-1.1: Crisis Intervention Program. These reviews, which include detailed recommendations and considerations, were initiated to address evolving community needs around mental health in an effort to strengthen constitutional policing in Oakland.

In its assessment of DGO O-1, the OIG submits five recommendations to update OPD's policy. These recommendations aim to provide officers with access to current definitions, example characteristics of mental disorders and dementia, accurate facility information, up-to-date mental health resources, and streamlined procedures for determining the authority for medical attention. The OIG also offered two key considerations: first, that OPD revise the entire policy to align with California's current language of Welfare and Institutions Code §5008, §5150, and §5525, and Senate Bill 43 (SB-43). Second, the OIG requests the policy give guidance on how to provide meaningful service to people with mental disorders when detention and arrest are not necessary.

The OIG's Policy Review and Assessment Report for DGO O-1.1: Crisis Intervention Program includes one recommendation and two considerations. The report recommends OPD revise its Mental Health Resource Card to ensure all information is accurate and up-to-date. The OIG also suggests OPD consider updating its recruitment and selection criteria for its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) members and conduct a thorough review of its training curriculum to ensure accuracy.

"Our commitment to public safety includes a deep dedication to the well-being of all community members," said Inspector General Zurvohn A. Maloof. "These reviews are a direct result of our proactive efforts to align our work with the needs of our community so that OPD officers are equipped with the best possible guidance and resources to handle complex situations with compassion and professionalism."

In OPD's response to the OIG's reports, they provide their plan to deliver on each recommendation and consideration. Both policy reviews are now available to the public on the OIG's website.

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