



For Immediate Release:
September 2, 2015

Contact:
Chelsea Irvine
(916)448-3444
Chelsea@MarketplaceCommunications.com

California Law Enforcement Makes Transparency a Priority Open Justice Website Brings Public Safety Data to the Public

Sacramento, CA: After months of working together, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), representing 67,000 public safety members and 915 associations, appreciates the considerable efforts of Attorney General Kamala Harris on the launch of Open Justice, a website clearinghouse for public safety data in California.

In response to concerns of those they serve, PORAC has been conferring with Attorney General Harris on ways to improve transparency in reporting of law enforcement interactions with the public.

“Every member of our community matters to us,” said PORAC President Mike Durant. “We feel the frustrations of our neighbors and we want to be part of the solution. Solving the problem begins with having the data to know how to approach those concerns. Open Justice will give us a more detailed roadmap so we can be pragmatic moving forward.”

PORAC leadership has provided insight from generations of experience patrolling California streets to assist the Attorney Generals in fine tuning the collection criteria for the new site. Outlined in a detailed letter to Harris and her staff, PORAC suggested many data points that are included in the website’s functionalities.

“As Attorney General Harris mentioned earlier this year, we have a “crisis of confidence” between law enforcement and the public,” continues Durant. “Addressing this mistrust is our number one priority. My members and I know this trust cannot just be given; it must be earned and reinforced every time we meet with members of our community. By outlining our strengths and weaknesses, we know what we can build upon and what needs improvement.”

The launch of Open Justice is only the first step towards transparency and communication between peace officers and the community. This valuable information will provide useful insight and cultivate productive policy discussions. PORAC plans to continue this dialogue with Attorney General Harris and take every step necessary to listen and respond to the concerns of all Californians.

“PORAC is proud that our state is represented by law enforcement officers that care deeply about our communities and we believe this information will further improve training and how daily duties of our members on the streets are handled,” stated Durant.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Today, PORAC represents over 67,000 public safety members and over 915 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.