

# Oversight Gutted; Please Help Now!

## Police Oversight Focus Group Publicly Negotiated Compromise

\* Both civilian and police complainants as well as officers with complaints against them may receive copies of investigative files in a 'Monitor's Conference.'

\* Citizens and officers can use non-threatening Monitor process to file complaints.

\* City Council appoints Review Panel members.

\* All Review Panel meetings conducted in public.

\* Review Panel has copy of entire investigation, so it can be studied, but cannot release certain limited parts to the public.

\* Monitor's Reports only limited by current law.

## Police Association-City Manager Secretly Negotiated Deal

\* No complainant, officer, member of the Review Panel, or even the Monitor, can receive a copy of investigative files.

\* Process only accepts complaints from citizens, not complaints by other officers.

\* The City Manager appoints Review Panel members.

\* Review Panel deliberates and votes behind closed doors, *but with police union board member present.*

\* Citizens on Review Panel can only briefly "view" facts of investigation *and* Monitor has unlimited discretion to withhold any part of the investigation from Panel.

\* Monitor's Reports cannot refer to any specific case. Monitor cannot discuss cases with the Austin City Council.

# Make Austin Police Accountable!

If you watch the news you know the Austin Police Department has serious problems. APD made national headlines after detectives coerced a false rape confession and the victim was proven innocent by DNA testing. A federal task force pursued allegations that **Austin cops provided security for drug dealers** until APD quashed the investigation by pulling its men off the case. And Samuel Ramirez, an Austin cop who allegedly forced a woman to perform oral sex on him while he was on duty, was only charged with a misdemeanor and could still return to the force.

Citizens demanded accountability for APD's increasingly rotten record. The Austin City Council responded by creating Austin's Police Oversight Focus Group (POFG), made up of citizens and representatives of the Austin Police Association, the officers' union. The idea was that restrictive state civil service laws could be overridden to create real accountability if the union would agree to reforms through their labor contract process. **The most important reforms, negotiated over many months, gave limited access**

**(for complainants and the oversight board) to information** about investigations of complaints against officers. In return, officers get a large pay raise.

But the union negotiated in bad faith. Along with City Manager Jesus Garza they gutted the POFG deal behind closed doors in the labor negotiations. Under the APA's secret deal, all information has been restricted from complainants, the proposed oversight board *and* the public. The resulting system is completely closed and not accountable to anyone at all. The pay raise, you may imagine, was left intact.

**The ACLU and the Sunshine Project oppose the Meet and Confer Agreement without the full POFG recommendations, and urge you to call city council today to say you do too.** Tell them no pay raise without real oversight. Do it right now!

### For more information:

<http://home.austin.rr.com/apdhallofshame>  
or <http://www.aclutx.org/projects/police/>

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## Contact the Austin City Council today! Tell them No Pay Raise Without Real Oversight.

**Mayor Kirk Watson**  
499-2250; [kirk.watson@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:kirk.watson@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Jackie Goodman**  
499-2255; [jackie.goodman@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:jackie.goodman@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Will Wynn**  
499-2256; [will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Beverly Griffith**  
499-2258; [beverly.griffith@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:beverly.griffith@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Daryl Slusher**  
499-2260; [daryl.slusher@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:daryl.slusher@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Danny Thomas**  
499-2266; [danny.thomas@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:danny.thomas@ci.austin.tx.us)

**Raul Alvarez**  
499-2264; [raul.alvarez@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:raul.alvarez@ci.austin.tx.us)

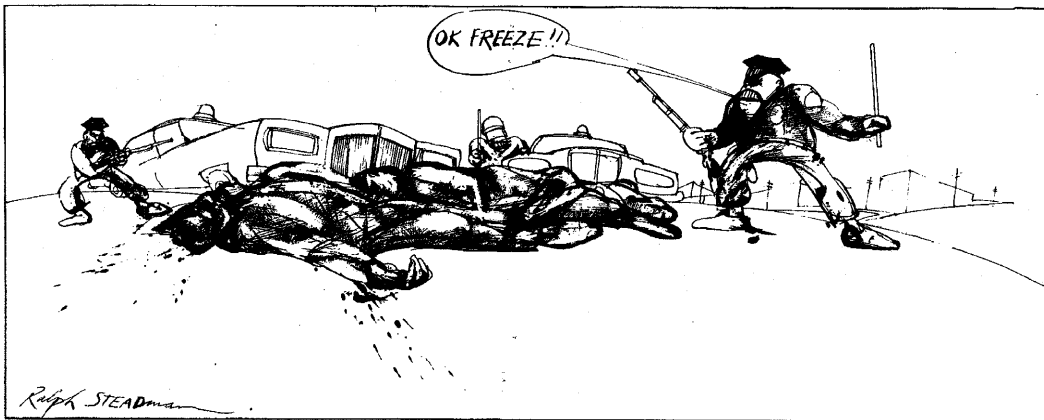
Please call or write each of these councilmembers today! Tell them not to approve a pay raise without real oversight!

**With Your Support Now We Can Win  
Real Police Oversight in Austin**

ACLU Foundation of Texas, Inc.  
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For more information about the ACLU of Texas  
see our web site at <http://www.aclutx.org>

ACLU PO Box 3629, Austin, TX 78764; 512-441-3195

**Work For Police Accountability at the Legislature**

Support the ACLU and the Texas Criminal Justice Reform Coalition for a Criminal Justice Reform Advocacy Day on Monday, March 5. (See their web site at <http://www.protex.org/criminaljustice/>) Help lobby for police accountability and other important issues. Call coordinator Eva Owens at 512/441-8123 or email her at [Evaowens12@yahoo.com](mailto:Evaowens12@yahoo.com) if you'd like to participate.