IS FILING A COMPLAINT WITH CLERB THE SAME AS FILING AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMPLAINT, CRIMINAL COMPLAINT, GRAND JURY COMPLAINT, COUNTY CLAIM, OR CIVIL LAWSUIT?

NO. CLERB conducts independent investigations of complaints. The following are entirely separate from, are not a part of, and do not preclude filing a CLERB complaint: an internal affairs complaint with the Sheriff’s or Probation departments, a criminal investigation or prosecution, a Grand Jury complaint or investigation, County claim, or a civil lawsuit.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Apply to serve your community as a board member. Board members must be registered to vote in San Diego County and have a demonstrated interest in public affairs and service. Candidates undergo background checks, are nominated by the County’s Chief Administrative Officer, and are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. County employees and persons employed as peace officers are ineligible to serve. Members serve a three-year term for up to two consecutive terms. In addition to reviewing investigative reports and participating in regular meetings, members complete training by the Sheriff’s and Probation departments and County Counsel, ride-a-longs, and jail tours. Members must file annual statements of economic interest. Members also periodically attend community meetings to talk about CLERB.

Applications may be downloaded from CLERB’s website, www.sdcounty.ca.gov/clerb, or are available by mail upon request.
WHO ARE WE?
San Diego County voters established the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) in November 1990 to independently receive and investigate citizen complaints against deputies and probation officers. CLERB is composed of eleven volunteer community members who are not affiliated with the Sheriff's Department or Probation Department. CLERB is supported by four County employees, including two full-time investigators.

WHAT DO WE DO?
CLERB receives and investigates complaints about the conduct of peace officers employed by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and Probation Department. CLERB investigates deaths that arise out of, or in connection with, the actions of deputies and probation officers, regardless of whether a complaint is filed. CLERB also makes recommendations for complaint-related policy and procedure changes. CLERB publishes meeting minutes and agendas with case summaries, workload reports, findings, an annual report, and "early warning" reports to the Sheriff and Chief Probation Officer.

WHAT DO WE INVESTIGATE?
CLERB has jurisdiction to investigate allegations of:
- Use of excessive force
- Discrimination
- Improper discharge of firearms
- Illegal search or seizure
- False arrest
- False reporting
- Criminal conduct
- Misconduct
- Death that arises out of, or in connection with, the actions of a deputy or probation officer.

WHAT IS MISCONDUCT?
“Misconduct” is any alleged improper or illegal act, omission or decision, directly affecting the person or property of a specific citizen by reason of an alleged violation of Sheriff’s Department or Probation Department orders or guidelines; an alleged violation of state or federal law; or any otherwise improper or unbecoming conduct by a peace officer employed by the Sheriff’s Department or the Probation Department. CLERB does not have jurisdiction over complaints involving civilian employees of these departments or off-duty conduct of peace officers.

WHO MAY FILE A COMPLAINT?
Anyone may file a complaint, regardless of age, citizenship, residence, disability, criminal record, or incarceration.

HOW CAN I FILE A COMPLAINT?
By phone, fax, in person, U.S. mail, or the Internet at CLERB’s website.

IS THERE A TIME LIMIT FOR FILING A COMPLAINT?
YES. A signed complaint must be received within one year of the event that caused the complaint. Incarceration or incapacity tolls the one-year period.

CONTACT CLERB AT:
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