

Commission on Police Practices

COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

5:00pm-8:00pm

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Southeastern Live Well Center

5101 Market St.

San Diego, CA 92114

The link to join the meeting by computer, tablet, or smartphone at 5:00pm is:

[Microsoft Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 212 426 023 819 214

Passcode: Vq7G3HL9

**Downloading the latest version of Microsoft Teams is required.*

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES

The purpose of the Commission on Police Practices (CPP or Commission) is to provide independent community oversight of SDPD, directed at increasing community trust in SDPD & increasing safety for community and officers. The purpose of the Commission is also to perform independent investigations of officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths and other significant incidents, and an unbiased evaluation of all complaints against members of SDPD and its personnel in a process that will be transparent and accountable to the community. Lastly, the Commission also evaluates the review of all SDPD policies, practices, trainings, and protocols and represents the community in making recommendations for changes.

The Commission on Police Practices (Commission) meetings will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of California Government Code Section 54953 (a), as amended by Assembly Bill 2249.

The Commission business meetings will be in person, and the meeting will be open for in-person testimony. Additionally, we are continuing to provide alternatives to in-person attendance for participating in our meetings. In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may also participate via telephone/Teams.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS (Chair Bonnie Benitez)
- II. ROLL CALL (Executive Assistant Alina Conde)
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Regular Business Meeting – June 3, 2026
 2. Special Meeting – June 13, 2026

- IV. NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- V. NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES
 - A. Executive (Chaired by Ada Rodriguez)
 - B. Outreach (Commissioner Armando Flores)
 - C. Recruitment (Commissioner Doug Case)
 - D. Training (Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat)
- VI. NON AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- VII. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Direct Community Engagement & Internship Programs Yasmeen Obeid)
- VIII. PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Implicit Bias Training
 Presenter: Salina Villegas from the City's Department of Race and Equity
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Commissioner Comment
- IX. DISCUSSION
 - A. Pretext and follow-up from June 13, 2026, Special Meeting
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Commissioner Comment
 - B. Report from the Grand Jury
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Commissioner Comment
 - C. New Executive Committee meeting dates
 - 1. Public Comment
 - 2. Commissioner Comment
- X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS
- XI. COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION
- XII. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Direct Community Engagement & Internship Programs Obeid)
- XIII. CLOSED SESSION (to commence no later than 7:00 p.m.)
 - A. Public comment
 - B. Lead CPP into Closed Session
(Not Open to the Public)
 - C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE
 Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss complaints, charges, investigations, and discipline (unless the employee requests an open public session) involving San Diego Police Department employees, and information deemed confidential under Penal Code Sections 832.5-832.8 and Evidence Code Section 1040. Reportable actions for the Closed Session

items on the agenda will be announced and posted on the Commission's website at www.sandiego.gov/cpp.

- a. SDPD Feedback on Case-Specific Matters – None
- b. Review of Internal Affairs Investigations
 1. Case 2025-0399 (CATI)
 2. Case 2025-0532 (CATI)
 3. Case 2026-0060 (CATI)
 4. 2025-0268 (OIS)
- c. Discipline Memos – None

XIV. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (Direct Community Engagement & Internship Programs Obeid)

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Materials Provided:

- June 3, 2026 Regular Business Meeting minutes
- June 13, 2026 Special Meeting minutes
- CPP Implicit Bias Training PPT

In-Person Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Commission on an item on today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker slip before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard. Each speaker must file a speaker slip with the Executive Director at the meeting at which the speaker wishes to speak indicating which item they wish to speak on. Speaker slips may not be turned in prior to the day of the meeting or after completion of in-person testimony. In-person public comment will conclude before virtual testimony begins. Each speaker who wishes to address the Commission must state who they are representing if they represent an organization or another person.

For discussion and information items each speaker may speak up to three (3) minutes, subject to the Chair's determination of the time available for meeting management purposes, in addition to any time ceded by other members of the public who are present at the meeting and have submitted a speaker slip ceding their time. These speaker slips should be submitted together at one time to the Executive Director. The Chair may also limit organized group presentations of five or more people to 15 minutes or less.

In-Person Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker slip. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item to

appropriately manage the meeting and ensure the Commission has time to consider all the agenda items. A member of the public may only make one Non-Agenda Public Comment per meeting. In-person public comment on items not on the agenda will conclude before virtual testimony begins.

Speakers may not allocate their time to other speakers. If there are eight or more speakers on a single issue, the maximum time for the issue will be 16 minutes. The order of speaking generally will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. A member of the public may only provide one non-agenda comment per agenda.

We welcome all viewpoints and encourage open participation. However, to ensure everyone has a chance to be heard and that we can complete our work, we ask that speakers respect time limits and refrain from disruptive behavior. Continued disruption after warning may result in removal as permitted under state law.

Virtual Platform Public Comment to a Particular Item or Matters Not on the Agenda: When the item you would like to comment on is introduced (or it is indicated that it is time for Non-Agenda Public Comment), raise your hand by tapping on the “Raise Your Hand” button on your computer or tablet. To raise your hand in a Microsoft Teams meeting on your smartphone (iOS or Android), tap the three-dot menu, then select the "Raise Hand" option. You will be taken in the order in which you raised your hand. You may only speak once on a particular item. When it is indicated that it is your turn to speak, click the unmute prompt that will appear on your computer, tablet or Smartphone.

Written Comment through Webform: Comment on agenda items and non-agenda public comment may also be submitted using the [webform](#). If using the webform, indicate the agenda item number you wish to submit a comment for. All webform comments are limited to 200 words. On the [webform](#), members of the public should select Commission on Police Practices (even if the public comment is for a Commission on Police Practices Committee meeting).

The public may attend a meeting when scheduled by following the attendee meeting link provided above. To view a meeting archive video, click [here](#). Video footage of each Commission meeting is posted online [here](#) within 72 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.

Comments received no later than 8am on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission on Police Practices. Comments received after the deadline described above but before the item is called will be submitted into the written record for the relevant item.

Written Materials: You may alternatively submit via U.S. Mail to Attn: Office of the Commission on Police Practices, 525 B Street, Suite 1725, San Diego, CA 92101. Materials submitted via U.S. Mail must be received the business day prior to the meeting to be distributed to the Commission on Police Practices.

If you attach any documents to your comment, they will be distributed to the Commission or Committee in accordance with the deadlines described above.

Late-Arriving Materials: This paragraph relates to those documents received after the agenda is publicly noticed and during the 72 hours prior to the start of, or during, the meeting. Pursuant to the Brown Act, (California Government Code Section 54957.5(b)) late-arriving documents, related to the Commission on Police Practices' ("CPP") meeting agenda items, which are distributed to the legislative body prior to and/or during the CPP meeting are available for public review by appointment in the Office of the CPP located at Procopio Towers, 525 B Street, Suite 1725, San Diego, CA 92101. Appointments for public review may be made by calling (619) 533-5304 and coordinating with CPP staff before visiting the office. Late-arriving documents may also be obtained by email request to CPP staff at commissiononpolicepractices@sandiego.gov. Late-arriving materials received prior to the CPP meeting will also be available for review, at the CPP public meeting, by making a verbal request of CPP staff located in the CPP meeting. Late-arriving materials received during the CPP meeting will be available for reviewing the following workday at the CPP offices noted above or by email request to CPP staff.

Access for People with Disabilities: As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information to be made available in alternative formats, and any requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting the Commission at (619) 533-5304 or commissiononpolicepractices@sandiego.gov.

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodation required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services, or interpreters require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. The city is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly.

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, June 3, 2026**

St. Paul's Cathedral – Guild Room
2728 Sixth Ave.,
San Diego, CA 92103

Click <https://youtu.be/iVaQwXLg7Mo> to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners' Present:

Chair Ada Rodriguez

1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez

2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré

John Armantrout

David Burton

Cheryl Canson

Doug Case

Steve Chatzky

Lupe Diaz

Armando Flores (arrived at 5:27pm)

Elizabeth Inpyn

Kirby Knipp

Dwayne Harvey

Dan Lawton

Darlanne Mulmat

Chenyang Rickard (arrived at 5:06pm)

Imani Robinson

Jay Sener

Daniel Torres

Excused:

None

Absent:

None

CPP Staff Present:

Roger Smith, Executive Director

Alina Conde, Executive Assistant

Aaron Burgess, Director of Policy & Media Relations

Olga Golub, Chief Investigator

Ching-Yun Li, Investigator

Yasmeen Obeid, Director of Community Engagement & Internship Programs

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Ada Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
- II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established quorum.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Regular Business Meeting – May 6, 2026
Motion: Commissioner Darlanne Mulmat moved to accept the amended May 6, 2026 CPP meeting minutes. Commissioner Steve Chatzky seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 12-0-0.
Yeas: Armantrout, Benitez, Burton, Honoré, Case, Chatzky, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Rickard, Sener, Torres
Nays: None
Abstentions: None

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR (*Timestamp 4:32*)

- **Oversight Limitations:** Highlighted the inability to independently review or investigate certain cases This underscores the need for completed legal oversight and transparency.
- **Budget Discussion:** The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget increases the SDPD general fund allocation by \$15.1 million, while freezing or holding several supervisory and civilian positions vacant. Questioned the rationale for reducing supervisory roles and increasing support for Special Operations and Finance, emphasizing the need for clarity on operational priorities. Cited publicly available data showing an officer logging about 111 hours per week, raising questions about overtime approvals, timekeeping, and oversight. The issue was referred to city departments for internal review.
- **Recent Incidents:** The recent shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego was discussed, with stressing the importance of staffing, emergency readiness, and mutual aid systems. Effective response depends on contingency planning, risk assessment, and clear communication.
- **Use of Force and Policy Review:** Ongoing concerns about repeat use of force incidents and a downtown pepper spray event were mentioned, highlighting the need for policy review and independent oversight.
- **Grand Jury Report on Measure B:** Referenced the San Diego County Grand Jury's review, which found the CPP lacks key components for independent oversight, such as investigators, legal staff, database access, subpoena power, and a permanent executive director. Recommendations include finalizing legal processes, hiring staff, and improving access to complaint databases.
- **Leadership Transition:** Announced they will not seek another term as chair but will run for vice chair for policy, aiming to focus on policy analysis and recommendations. They expressed pride in the commission's work and commitment to continued advocacy and preparation for expanded authority.
- **Commitment to Transparency:** Reaffirmed dedication to documenting concerns, elevating critical issues, and advocating for the tools needed to ensure accountability within the system.

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROGER SMITH:
(*Timestamp 12:24*)

- **Complaint Statistics:** In May 2026, the Commission on Police Practices received 90 complaints; 54 were filed with Internal Affairs and forwarded to the CPP, while 36 were filed directly with the CPP. Of those, 26 were forwarded to IA and 10 were outside the commission's jurisdiction.

- **Training and Symposium:** Chief Investigator Boba Galla, Investigator Chen Yun Lee, and the executive director attended a Science-based Interviewing Symposium in Anaheim, focusing on rapport-based interviewing techniques to improve reliability and reduce false confessions.
- **Upcoming Community Events:**
 - June 6: Community discussion on police accountability at 5101 Market Street, co-hosted by Saving Lives in California and San Diegans for Justice.
 - June 13: Community hearing on pretext stops at 10 AM, Public Utilities Department Auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way, also available on Teams. The commission is working on a policy recommendation and will gather further community input.
- **Administrative Details:** Corrections to event flyers were discussed to ensure accurate location and zip code information.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ Tasha Williamson (Virtual) (*Timestamp 17:06*)

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Executive Committee** (*Timestamp 15:51*): The Executive Committee met on May 27th from 4:30 to 6:00. They discussed the upcoming pretext stop forum, policy recommendations, and press releases. The committee considered sending messages from the CPP about local incidents, such as the shooting at the Islamic Center, to show community support and awareness. The process for future press releases is still under discussion. Commissioner Darlann Mulmat's 2025 NACOLE report was mentioned as part of the agenda.
- **Recruitment Committee** (*Timestamp 23:50*): The recruitment committee completed the nomination process for new commissioners and prepared a report with recommendations to be discussed in closed session. The committee will meet tomorrow at 4:00 at the CPP office to debrief the recruitment and nomination process.
- **Outreach Committee** (*Timestamp 22:36*): The Outreach Committee will meet tomorrow from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the commission quarters. The focus is to support the policy committee, especially regarding pretext stops. The committee will discuss completing overall outreach and address organizational matters. Members are encouraged to join the meeting.
- **Recruitment Committee** (*Timestamp 25:29*): The committee is organizing a forum on pretext stops scheduled for June 13th at the utilities building. Work is ongoing on presentations and a report related to pretext stop recommendations. Flyers are being distributed to various communities, and members are encouraged to share them. The committee will meet on June 17th to report on outcomes and recommendations from the pretext stop forum.

NON-AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS - None

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- A. IA and OIS Investigations Overview (*Timestamp 29:37*) Presented by: San Diego Police Department Internal Affairs Captain Judd Campbell
Internal Affairs (IA) delivered a presentation covering both standard IA processes and Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS). The presentation covered the structure, process, and timelines of Internal Affairs investigations, including complaint intake, categorization, findings, and the multi-agency procedures for officer-involved shootings, emphasizing transparency, oversight, and legal requirements.

Public Comment

- ❖ Tasha Williamson (Virtual) (*Timestamp 59:55*)
- ❖ Samuel Portillo (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:04:28*)

- ❖ Patricia De Arman (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:05:38*)
- ❖ Yusef Miller (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:09:38*)
- ❖ Dave De Arman (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:11:33*)

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of 2026-2027 CPP Officers

1. Public Comment – None
2. Discussion - None

a. **Chair** (Nominations)

NAME: Bonnie Benitez

Motion: Commissioners cast their vote for Chair of the Commission on Police Practices. By a unanimous vote, Commissioner **Bonnie Benitez** was elected as the Commission’s Chair through June 30, 2027.

Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Honoré, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Robinson, Rodriguez, Rickard, Sener, Torres

b. **Vice Chair for Policy** (Nominations)

NAME: *Ada Rodriguez*

Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Honoré, Case, Flores, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Rodriguez, Rickard, Sener

NAME: *Imani Rodriguez*

Chatzky, Diaz, Harvey, Robinson, Torres

NAME: *Bonnie Benitez (ineligible)*

Motion: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted roll call for Commissioners to cast their vote for Vice Chair of Policy. By a majority vote, Commissioner **Ada Rodriguez** was elected as the Commission’s Vice Chair of Policy through June 30, 2027.

c. **Vice Chair for External Affairs** (Nominations)

NAME: David Burton

Motion: Commissioners cast their vote for Vice Chair for External Affairs of the Commission on Police Practices. By a majority vote, Commissioner **David Burton** was elected as the Commission’s Vice Chair for External Affairs through June 30, 2027.

Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Honoré, Case, Chatzky, Flores, Harvey, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Robinson, Rodriguez, Rickard, Sener, Torres

Abstained: Diaz

d. **Vice Chair for Strategic Planning** (Nominations)

NAME: Armando Flores

NAME: *Stephen Chatzky (withdrew)*

Motion: Commissioners cast their vote for Vice Chair for Strategic Planning of the Commission on Police Practices. By a unanimous vote, Commissioner **Armando Flores** was elected as the Commission’s Vice Chair for Strategic Planning through June 30, 2027.

Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Honoré, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Robinson, Rodriguez, Rickard, Sener, Torres

e. **Vice Chair for Commissioner Development** (Nominations)

NAME: Darlanne Mulmat

Motion: Commissioners cast their vote for Vice Chair for Commissioner Development of the Commission on Police Practices. By a unanimous vote, Commissioner **Darlanne Mulmat** was elected as the Commission’s Vice Chair for Commissioner Development through June 30, 2027.

Benitez, Armantrout, Burton, Honoré, Case, Chatzky, Diaz, Flores, Harvey, Inpyn, Lawton, Mulmat, Robinson, Rodriguez, Rickard, Sener, Torres

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

A. Community Roundtable

1. Public Comment - None
2. Discussion (*Timestamp 2:02:20*)
 - Commissioner Armando Flores reported on the December community roundtable at Malcolm X Library, where over 15 attendees discussed issues such as unlawful traffic stops, complaints not being addressed, juvenile system impacts, police response during mental health crises, surveillance technologies, and difficulty accessing commission support.
 - Acknowledged the report was delayed, explained quorum issues, and committed to releasing quarterly outreach reports for greater transparency and continuous improvement.
 - The roundtable report was revised based on community feedback and included updates to the complaint process and expectations for regular reporting.

B. 2025 NACOLE Conference Debrief

1. Public Comment - None
2. Discussion
 - Commissioner Darlann Mulmat attended the NACOLE conference and highlighted that the commission is following best practices for building legitimacy and trust, especially with a permanent executive director now in place.
 - Key takeaways included caution against using subpoena power too aggressively, the importance of transparency and publishing data, and documenting process progress.
 - Suggestions were made to improve branding to emphasize commission independence and to review NACOLE's 23 use-of-force principles for alignment with San Diego policies.
 - Mediation was discussed as a possible future option to address dissatisfaction with the complaint process.
 - Conference materials are available on Google Drive and provided a concise three-page summary for easier access.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS (*Timestamp 2:11:55*)

- Commissioner Stephen Chatzky stated that San Diego County Grand Jury report on the Commission be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Imani Robinson stated it is the commission's responsibility to be a platform for the community, mentioning that the "California Story" documentary should be shown and followed with a panel, regardless of agreement, to serve the community.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

A. Public Comment - None

B. Chair Ada Rodriguez led the CPP into Closed Session

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss complaints, charges, investigations, and discipline (unless the employee requests an open public session) involving San Diego Police Department employees, and information deemed confidential under Penal Code Sections 832.5832.8 and Evidence Code Section 1040. Reportable actions for the Closed Session items on the agenda will be posted on the Commission's website at www.sandiego.gov/cpp or

stated at the beginning of the Open Session meeting if the meeting is held on the same day.

a. SDPD Feedback on Case-Specific Matters – None

b. Review of Internal Affairs Investigations

1. Case 2025-0520 (CATI)

2. Case 2024-0589 (CATI)

3. Case 2025-0532 (CATI)

4. Case 2024-0557 (CATI)

5. Case 2026-0060 (CATI)

c. Discipline Memos - None

IX. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION (8:02 pm)- Chair Ada Rodriguez reported that there was no reportable action.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

DRAFT

**COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, June 13, 2026

San Diego Public Utilities Department
9192 Topaz Way
San Diego, CA 92123

Click <https://youtu.be/ietK8-l39lo> to view this meeting on YouTube.

CPP Commissioners' Present:

Chair Ada Rodriguez
1st Vice Chair Bonnie Benitez
2nd Vice Chair Clovis Honoré
Steve Chatzky
Lupe Diaz

Armando Flores
Kirby Knipp
Dan Lawton
Darlanne Mulmat

Excused:

Imani Robinson
John Armantrout
Doug Case
Elizabeth Inpyn
Dwayne Harvey
Jay Sener

Absent:

Cheryl Canson
David Burton
Chenyang Rickard
Daniel Torres

CPP Staff Present:

Roger Smith, Executive Director
Alina Conde, Executive Assistant
Jon'Nae McFarland, Administrative Aide
Aaron Burgess, Director of Policy & Media Relations
Olga Golub, Chief Investigator
Ethan Waterman, Investigator
Yasmeen Obeid, Director of Community Engagement & Internship Programs

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Chair Ada Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
- II. ROLL CALL: Executive Assistant Alina Conde conducted the roll call for the Commission and established no quorum.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- ❖ David De Arman (In Person) (*Timestamp 42:02*)
- ❖ Patricia De Arman (In Person) (*Timestamp 46:26*)
- ❖ Anne Elliot (In Person) (*Timestamp 58:34*)
- ❖ Anita Wucinic-Turner (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:00:27*)
- ❖ Melvin Scott (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:03:02*)
- ❖ Greg Danoras (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:04:25*)
- ❖ Darwin Fishman (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:07:32*)
- ❖ Nikhil Plettner Booker (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:36:20*)
- ❖ Nancy Yamagata (In Person) (*Timestamp 1:58:59*)
- ❖ Tony Ralphs (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:11:13*)
- ❖ Tony Ralphs (Virtual) (*Timestamp 2:11:15*)
- ❖ Cat (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:14:49*)
- ❖ Karina Vega (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:18:22*)
- ❖ David Rico (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:19:50*)
- ❖ Melissa Montes (Virtual) (*Timestamp 1:22:27*)
- ❖ Tasha Williamson (Virtual) (*Timestamp 2:02:39*)
- ❖ Nancy Behm (Virtual) (*Timestamp 2:06:27*)
- ❖ Mejgan Afshan (Virtual) (*Timestamp 2:08:18*)

III. DISCUSSION

A. Presentation on Pretext Stops

CPP Commissioner/Staff Presentation

Presenters: CPP Chair Ada Rodriguez, Director of Policy Aaron Burgess, Investigator Ethan Waterman

The presentation provided an in-depth examination of pretext stops conducted by the San Diego Police Department, outlining their purpose, the constitutional concerns they raise, and the significant racial disparities identified through RIPA data. It further highlighted local incidents demonstrating the risks associated with low-level stops and presented policy recommendations aimed at limiting such practices, enhancing documentation standards, and strengthening anti-bias and procedural justice measures. Public input was emphasized as a critical component in guiding the development of transparent and accountable policy revisions.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.

Commission on Police Practices

Strengthening Constitutional Policing and Equitable Enforcement



Pretext Stops - Community Briefing 2026



Office of the Commission on Police Practices

Why CPP Reviewed Pretext Stops

Why this issue was reviewed

- Community concerns about pretext stops and escalation
- Local data showing disparities in who gets stopped
- Research questioning the safety value of pretext stops
- The need to align enforcement with trust and constitutional policing

What informed the review

- Community testimony and CPP case reviews
- Local stop data and RIPA findings
- Peer-reviewed research and national best practices
- SDPD mission, values, and guiding principles



SDPD Mission

To maintain public safety by providing the highest quality police services to all of our communities.

Vision

The San Diego Police Department strives to advance the highest levels of public safety, trust, and professionalism by strengthening community partnership through fair and impartial policing while fostering employee enrichment and growth to ensure we remain America’s Finest police department.



What is a Pretext Stop?

A pretext stop is a police contact initiated for a minor equipment or administrative issue or other low-level reason, where the primary purpose becomes investigating unrelated criminal activity.

Includes pedestrian pretext stops — stopping a person for a minor ordinance or technical violation as a pretext to investigate other matters.

Pretext stops were framed for safety, but over time they grant patrol officers broad discretion that often exceeds actual safety benefits.

Do These Stops Reflect SDPD Values?

Human Life	Protect life and opportunity
Integrity	Transparency and ethics
Partnerships	Working with community
Diversity	Valuing all backgrounds
Employee Enrichment	Supporting staff growth
Compassion	Care for people
Innovation	Leading with new ideas
Courageous Justice	Pursuing fairness

Key Question: Do stops for minor issues like expired tags or a broken taillight reflect those commitments?

What the Evidence Shows

- Thousands of low-level/pretext stops → very few serious outcomes
- Racial disparities persist in stop decisions
- Most stops do NOT result in:
 - Weapons recovery
 - Serious arrests
- High volume of stops → low public safety return

Where the Disconnect Happens

- Fairness
 - Disparities in who gets stopped
- Respect
 - Stops for issues with no safety risk
- Accountability
 - Broad discretion with limited guardrails
- Community Partnership
 - Repeated pretext stops damage trust



Why This Matters to the Community

Pretext stops can lead to **unnecessary escalation**. can leave with **fear, humiliation, cost, and mistrust**. In some cases, pretext stops have ended in **serious injury or fatal outcomes**.

Christopher Dearman

a stop for a broken brake/taillight ultimately ended in a fatal police shooting, becoming one of the clearest local examples of how a pretext stop can escalate into irreversible harm.

Nicholas Hoskins

an alleged stop-sign stop – probable cause dispute - shattered window – arrest - and later a city settlement without admission of liability.

Columbus White

officer said the system showed a “fourth waiver”; he denied being on probation/parole, was handcuffed, later released after a sergeant verified, he was not a fourth waiver.

Abdulkadir Bulgaz

What was described as a minor traffic stop that according to a lawsuit and local reporting, led to verbal abuse, seizure of license, lost work, and trauma



OCPP POLICY

BACKGROUND • METHODOLOGY • DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT. TRANSPARENT PROCESS. STRONGER COMMUNITY.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES

Key Concepts



Pretext Stop

An officer uses an offense, usually a low-level infraction, as excuse to stop someone with the intention to investigate unrelated criminal activity.

Patterns of Practice

Concern that wide discretion leads to **discriminatory patterns** within the San Diego Police Department.

Biased Stops

Inappropriate stops based on protected characteristics:

- Race, ethnicity, or skin color
- Religion, age, or cultural group
- Gender expression or disability

Stops Based on a Hunch

Occurs because of an officer's speculation rather than articulable facts.

PRETEXT STOPS POLICY REVIEW PROCESS



The Commission on Police Practices has undertaken a comprehensive review of SDPD's stop and detention practices, including concerns related to pretextual stops and discretionary enforcement.

Engagement & Timeline

- CPP Hearing (2024)
- CPP Hearing (June 13, 2026)
- 4 Policy Committee meetings

Phase: Feb - May 2026

Research & Experts

- 6 subject matter experts consulted
- Academic & legal literature review
- Local data & testimony analysis

Internal Deliberation

- 4 staff policy work sessions
- Commissioner/staff collaboration
- Evidence-informed draft recommendations

U.S. Constitutional Constraint



Whren v. United States (1996)

The US Supreme Court held that a traffic stop supported by probable cause to believe a traffic violation occurred, **regardless of intent**, is constitutional under the Fourth Amendment.

Impact on Discretion

While the Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches, the Whren ruling allows officers to stop a vehicle whenever probable cause for a traffic violation exists.

Pretextual Motives

This implies that **pretextual motives** to investigate other crimes are irrelevant if the traffic stop is legally justified, even when deceit is involved.

California Policy



Assembly Bill 953: Racial and Identity Profiling Act (2015)

Established California's (RIPA). Under RIPA, state and local agencies must annually report data on all stops. All stop data must be made publicly available.

Assembly Bill 2773: Pretext Stops (Effective Jan 2024)

Signed September 2022, this bill aims to limit pretext stops. It reshapes CA Vehicle Code in **§ 2806.5** by requiring officers to articulate the reason for a stop before asking other questions.

- Increase transparency in law enforcement
- De-escalate police interactions with citizens

San Diego Pretext Stop Related Policy/Procedures

There are no explicit pretext-stop restrictions located in SDPD's public policies.

SDPD Policy Manual

7.01 Traffic Enforcement: The enforcement of all traffic laws shall be administered equally and fairly, regardless of the persons involved, and based solely on the nature of the offense.

9.20 Courtesy: Members shall not make derogatory comments about or express any prejudice concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, gender (to include gender identity and expression), sexual orientation, or similar personal characteristics.

9.29 Truthfulness Policy: Members shall be truthful in all matters relating to their duties.

San Diego Pretext Stop Related Policy/Procedures (Cont.)

SDPD Policy Manual

9.31 Non-Bias Based Policing: Members shall not base any enforcement action, in whole or in part, on race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender (to include gender identity and expression), lifestyle, sexual orientation, or similar personal characteristics, while conducting any law enforcement activity, including stops and detentions.

Except when engaging in the investigation of appropriate suspect-specific activity to identify a particular person or group.

Every effort shall be made by all members to prevent and report instances of discrimination or bias by fellow members using established Department complaint procedures. Members reporting instances of discrimination shall not be retaliated against.

BACKGROUND & RESEARCH



Over the course of this project, OCPP conducted a comprehensive review of pretext stop policies, stop data, oversight practices, and emerging reform efforts.

Research Activities

✓ Reviewed 50+ academic, governmental, legal, and policy sources

✓ Examined California RIPA stop data and related disparity findings

✓ Analyzed multiple federal and state legal authorities, including case law

✓ Compared policies and reform efforts across 5 major California law enforcement oversight bodies and police agencies

Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA)



Mandatory Reporting & Background

Officers in the State of California are required to complete a RIPA form every time they stop someone.

Documentation Requirements:

- Perceived demographic information of the individual stopped
- Events leading to the stop & actions taken by officers
- The final outcome of the stop

Forms are submitted to the State Attorney General, and the RIPA Board annually publishes a data analysis report.

2026 RIPA Board Report

Racial Disparities in Stops

Individuals perceived as Black were stopped **2.27X more** than expected based on population levels.

Search & Frisk Frequency

Officers most frequently searched and frisked individuals perceived as **Black or Native American** during vehicle stops.

Discovery Rates by Search Type

20.30% — Consent-only searches

26.40% — Non-discretionary searches

2026 RIPA Board Report

Statewide Complaints Overview

The RIPA Board was notified of **13,004 complaints** from 526 agencies. **17.55% (2,282)** alleged racial or identity profiling, but only **0.013% (3)** were sustained, compared to a **9.64%** sustained rate for all complaints.

San Diego Police Department (SDPD)

SDPD reported **76 total complaints**, with **13 (17%)** containing allegations of racial and identity profiling.

Recommendation: Reduce Pretextual Stops

The Board recommends reducing or eliminating pretextual stops, noting they **do not increase public safety** and have been successfully curtailed in other jurisdictions.

San Diego RIPA Data (2024)

Total Stop Overview

SDPD reported **103,463** total stops, of which **62,071** were traffic-related.

Primary Focus: Equipment & Non-Moving Violations

SDPD conducted **24,227** stops in this category.

These stops most closely align with the types of police interactions the Commission seeks to limit.

Black Individuals

3.05X More

Stopped more often than expected based on population levels.

White Individuals

15.05% Less

Stopped less often than expected based on population levels.

San Diego RIPA Data (2024)

Frisked

4.42X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Consent to Search Property

3.36X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Force Used Against Them

3.24X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Parole Status Inquiry

2.31X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Handcuffed

3.31X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Detained Curbside/Patrol Car

1.22X More Likely

Than individuals perceived to be White.

Source: 2024 SDPD Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Data Reports

San Diego RIPA Data (2024)



Consent Searches (Low-Level Stops)

11.57% Discovery Rate

123 recoveries from 1,063 consent searches during equipment/non-moving violation stops.



Total Department Searches

23.25% Discovery Rate

5,714 recoveries from 24,572 total searches across all 103,463 stops in 2024.



Key Finding: Ineffectiveness of Consent Searches

50% Less Likely to Recover Evidence

Consent searches during stops for equipment or non-moving violations are half as effective as standard searches in recovering contraband.

Source: 2024 SDPD Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Data Reports

San Diego RIPA Data (2024)



Citation Disparities

At the conclusion of these stops, individuals perceived to be Black were cited at **less than half the rate** of individuals perceived to be White, Asian, Middle Eastern or South Asian, and more than one race.

Individuals perceived to be Black were cited **25% less frequently** than individuals perceived to be Hispanic/Latine(x).



Arrest Disparities

64% More Often

Individuals perceived to be Black were arrested as a result of these stops more often than individuals perceived to be White.

Source: 2024 SDPD Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Data Reports

Policy Recommendations for Strengthening Constitutional Policing Promoting Equitable Enforcement



Safety-First Standard

Limit stops for low-level equipment and administrative violations to prioritize community safety.



Documented Justification

Restrict traffic stops to their original safety purpose; require formal justification for any expansion.



Enforcement Restrictions

Restrict consent searches and investigatory questioning arising from low-level enforcement contacts.



Anti-Bias Philosophy

Adopt and integrate an anti-bias policing philosophy into all department policies and procedures.

Target: Strengthen Constitutional Policing, Promote Equitable Stops, and Enhance Community Trust

1) Limit Initiation of Stops for Low-Level Violations Through a Safety-First Enforcement Standard

Safety-First Framework

The San Diego Police Department should adopt a safety-first enforcement framework that limits the initiation of traffic stops for low-level equipment and administrative violations that do not present an immediate threat to public safety.

Prohibited Sole Bases for Stops:

- A. Window tint violations
- B. Expired registration (< 1 year)
- C. Missing front plate (if rear is visible)
- D. Minor plate illumination deficiencies
- E. Single non-functioning taillight
- F. Objects from rearview mirror
- G. Minor bumper equipment violations

Public Safety Threshold & Exceptions

Threshold: Stops limited to violations materially interfering with roadway safety or vehicle identification.

Serious Crime: Officers may stop if they possess specific info indicating involvement in a serious violent felony.

Alternative Enforcement & Review

Alternatives: Warnings, correction notices, mailed notices, or city service referrals to achieve compliance.

Periodic Review: The Dept. shall review stop data, demographic disparities, and outcomes to ensure alignment with public safety goals.

Prioritizing violations linked to roadway safety, injury prevention, and public protection.

2) Limit Traffic Stops to Original Public Safety Purpose & Require Justification for Expansion

The SDPD should establish clear limitations on stop scope and duration to ensure enforcement remains connected to the original basis unless additional facts justify expansion.

Mission Limitation Requirement

Scope and duration must be limited to the observed violation and safety inquiries. Expansion requires new, specific, articulable facts. Hunches are insufficient.

Transparency & Documentation

Officers must communicate the stop reason early. Any expansion must be documented with specific facts creating reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Prohibited Factors & Restrictions

- **Generalized Factors:** No reliance on high-crime area, manner of dress, or homelessness.
- **Supervisory Review:** Periodic review of reports and footage to ensure mission-limitation compliance.

Ensuring constitutional policing through documented justification and strictly limited stop missions.

3) Restrict Consent Searches, Questioning & Field Interviews in Low-Level Contacts

The SDPD recognizes that these interactions during traffic stops can be perceived as coercive. Practices must be narrowly tailored, documented, and supported by legitimate investigative needs.

Consent Search & Voluntariness

Limitations: No requests during Recommendation One stops. For others, requires objective basis.

Protections: Must advise that consent is voluntary/refusable. Recorded on body-cam.

Questioning & Field Interviews

Questioning: Limited to stop purpose (ID, licensing, safety) unless reasonable suspicion exists.

Field Interviews: Prohibited for low-level violations without specific support for separate detention.

Data Collection & Continuous Analysis

The Department shall track and periodically analyze search requests, outcomes, field interviews, and stop-expansion rates. This data identifies disparities, evaluates policy effectiveness, and informs future decisions to ensure equitable policing.

Protecting constitutional rights by ensuring consent-based and investigative practices are documented and justified.

4) Adopt a Philosophy of Anti-Bias Policing and Integrate It Into Department Policy and Procedure

To combat implicit bias, establish principles of procedural justice. To prevent explicit bias establish equitable, impartial, and discrimination-free policing as a foundational principle. Public trust is advanced when decisions are based on objective, articulable facts.

Codification & Standard

Objective Decision-Making:

Enforcement based on facts, not protected characteristics.

Accountability & Review

Supervisory Review:

Review stops and searches for indicators of bias or disparate treatment.

Analysis & Evaluation

Data Collection:

Periodic review of use-of-force and arrest data to identify disparities.

Continuous Improvement & Integration

Training: Include implicit bias and procedural justice in all recruit and in-service programs.

Impact Assessment: Evaluate potential equity impacts prior to significant initiatives.

Transparency: Publicly communicate philosophy through community engagement and reporting.

Institutionalizing equitable policing through policy codification, training, and rigorous accountability.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT



PUBLIC COMMENT

We welcome your feedback and participation.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON POLICE PRACTICES

ACCOUNTABILITY IS PUBLIC SAFETY

RACE & EQUITY: IMPLICIT BIAS

Commission on Police Practices



AGENDA

- Opening
- Identity
- Bias
- Scenarios
- Closing



LEARNING OUTCOMES

1

Define identity and reflect on the impact of identity in your lived experiences

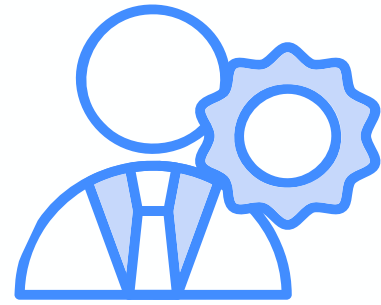
2

Define bias and analyze the ways it can show up in our workplaces

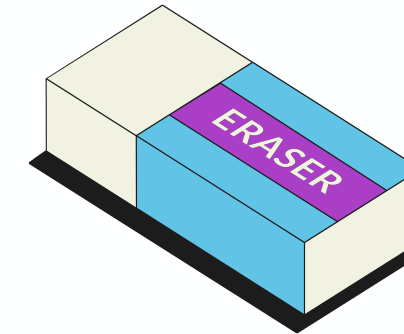
3

Apply strategies to minimize the impact of bias

TOOLS FOR INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE



Think of people as experts of their own experience



Consider being wrong – It's okay to say "I don't know" or "I might be wrong"



Challenge the idea, not the person



Share responsibility

IDENTITY





Identity

Identity refers to our sense of who we are as individuals and as members of social groups.

Identity also refers to our sense of how others may perceive and label us.

Reflect:

- What aspects of your identity might a stranger notice at your first meeting?
- What important aspects of your identity would remain unknown to that stranger?



Above the waterline

At the waterline

Below the waterline

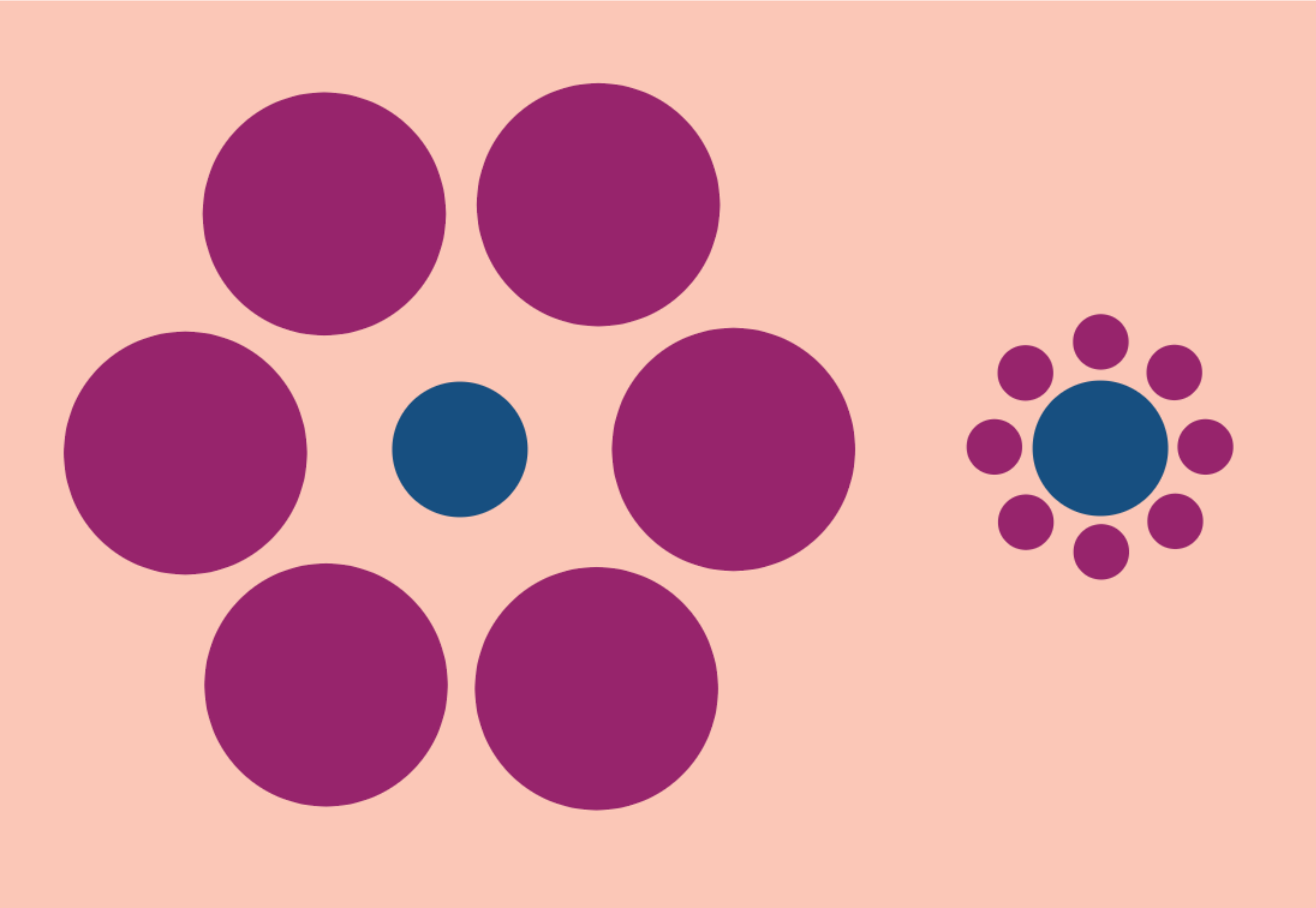


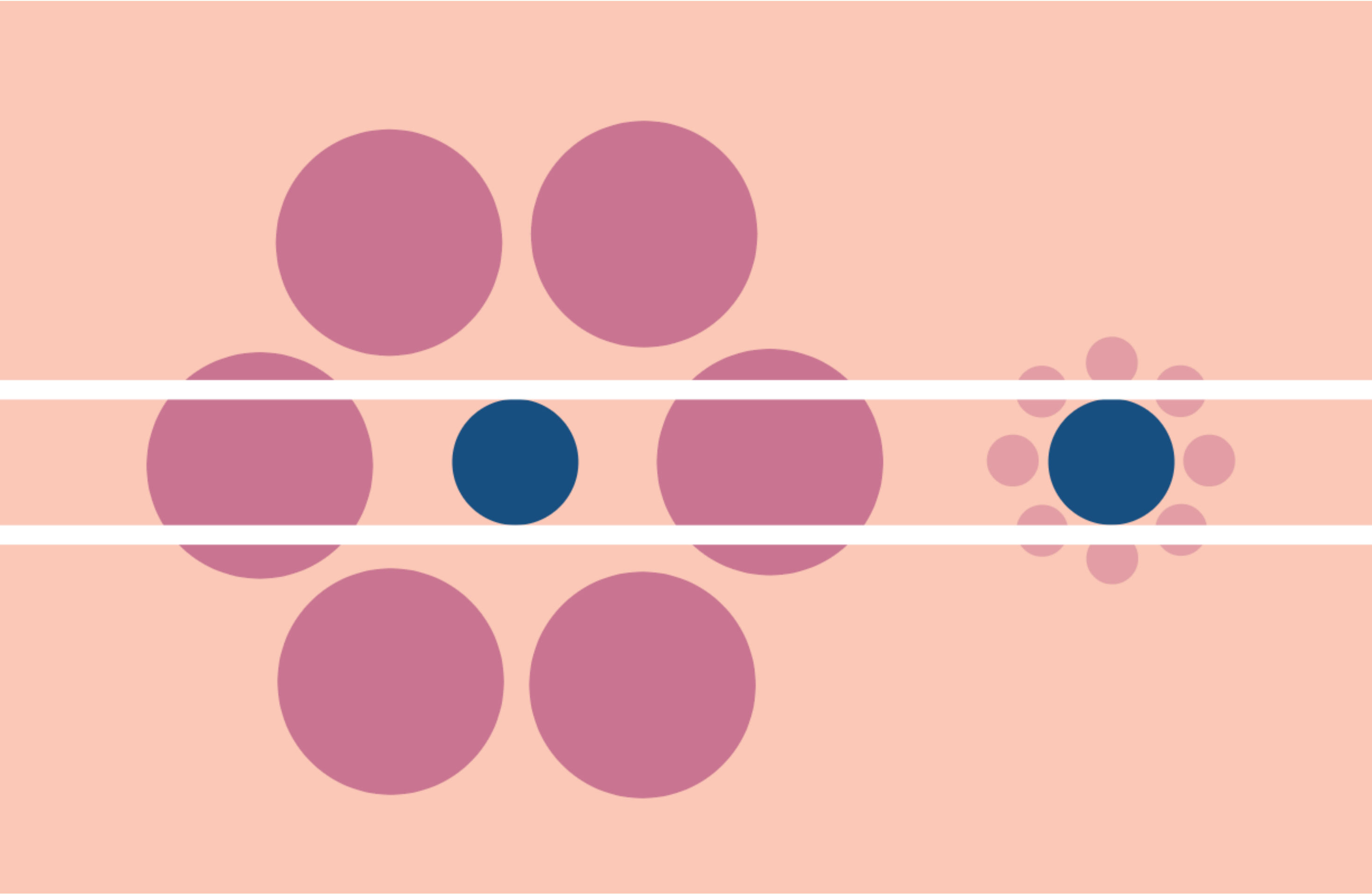
Why is it important to “go below the waterline”?

IMPLICIT BIAS

What are the stories that we tell ourselves and each other?







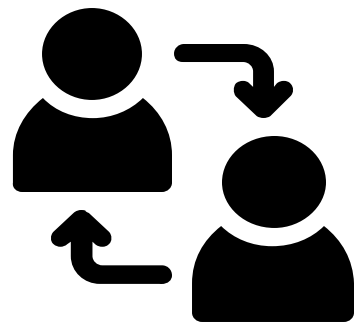
Bias

- Biases are our attitudes and beliefs that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions.
- Biases can be formed by our lived experiences, media, history, culture, and other factors.
- Implicit biases are our unconscious attitudes, beliefs, or stereotypes.

Types of Bias

Affinity Bias

Favoring those who are like us



Halo & Horns Bias

Allowing one good or bad thing to affect the opinions of everything else about that person



Authority Bias

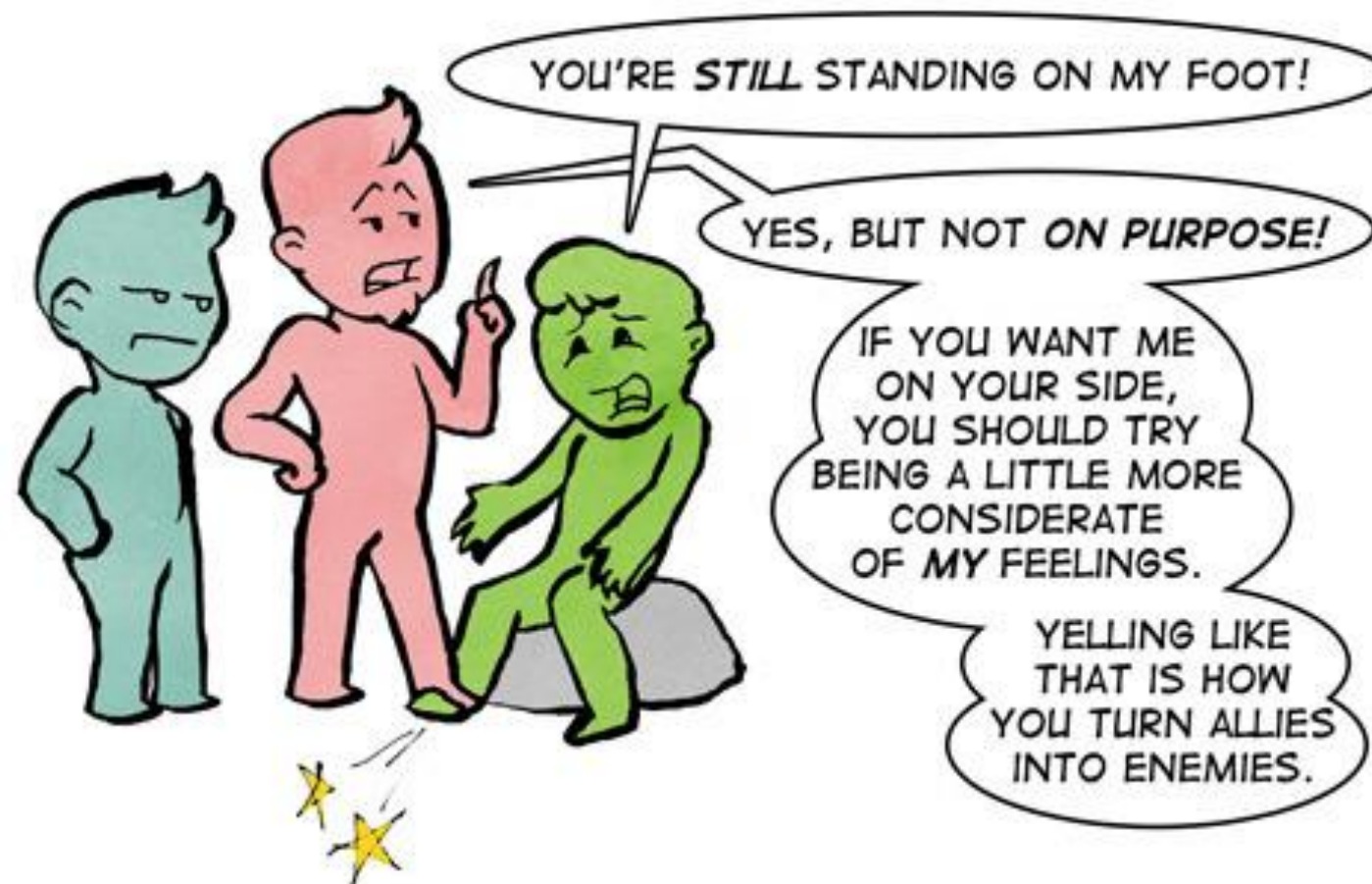
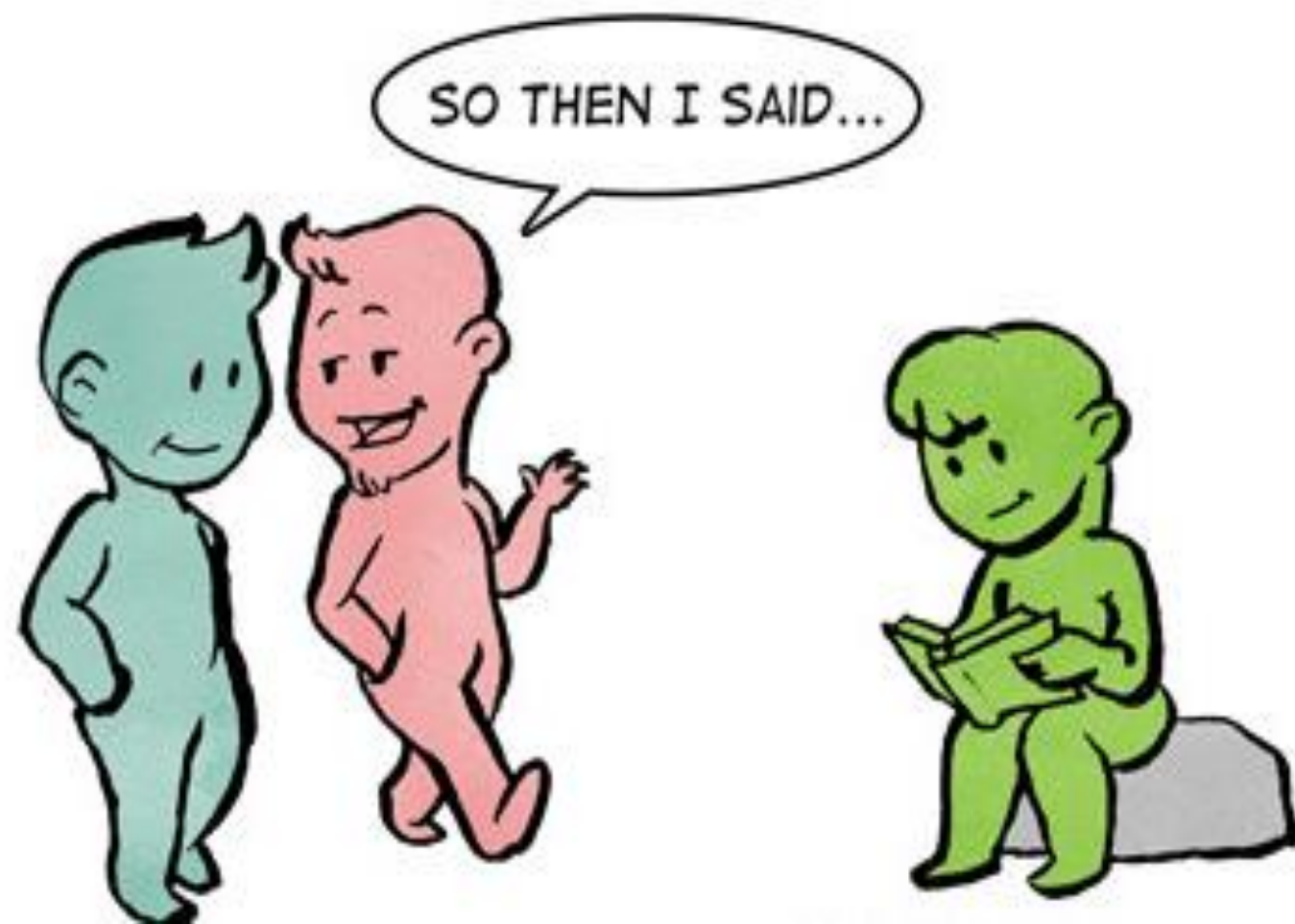
Attributing greater credibility or validity to the opinions of authority figures or those in power



Intent

Vs

Impact



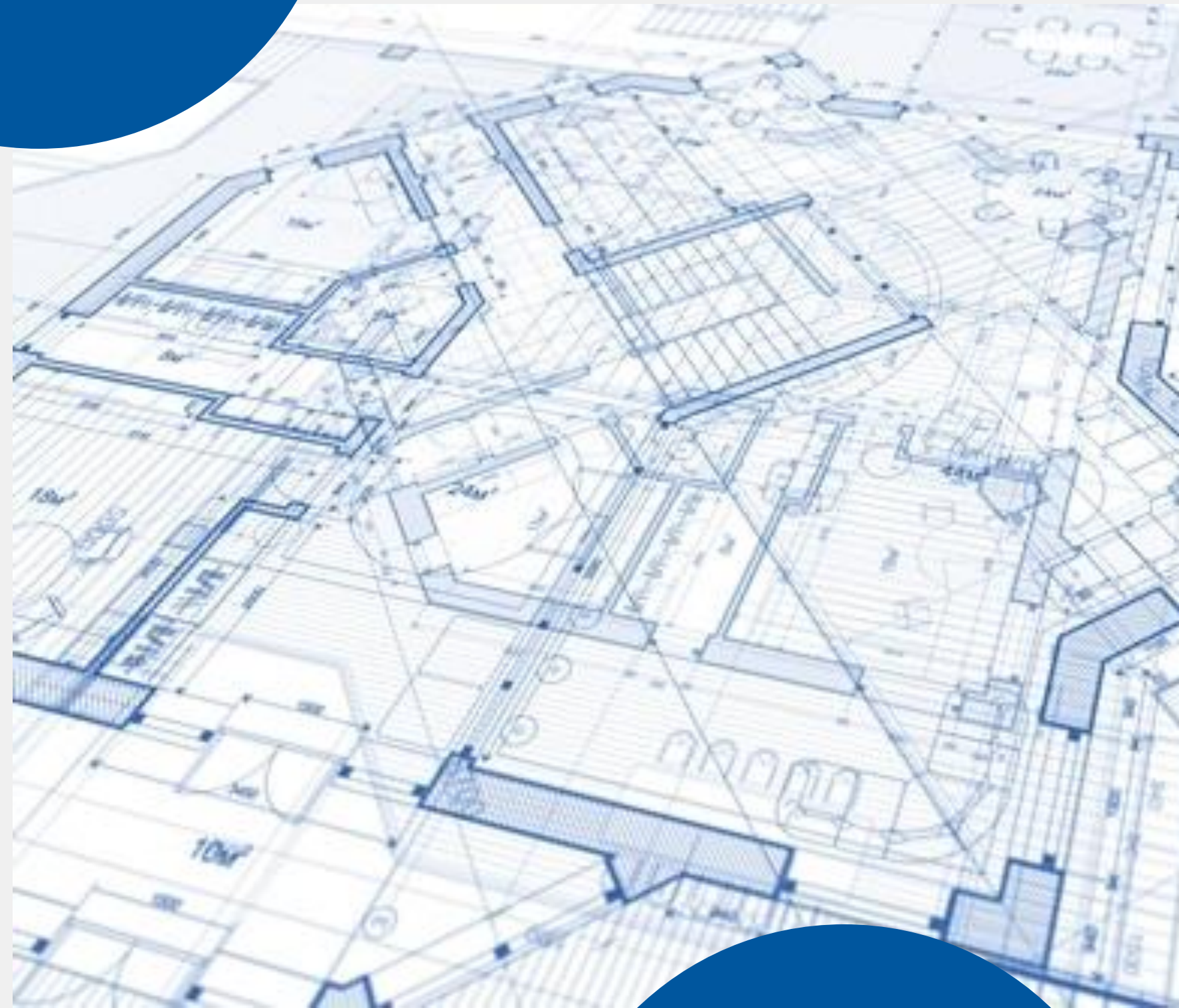
“Everyone commmits racial, gender, sexual orientation blunders. It’s how you recover—not how you cover up—that becomes very important.

- Derald Wing Sue



SCENARIOS

How can we actively and proactively mitigate bias?



SCENARIOS: YOUR TURN!

In your table groups, read over your assigned scenario and discuss the following:

- What role does bias play in this scenario?
- How would you react in this scenario? Consider strategies to mitigate bias.



RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THAT WE ALL HAVE BIASES

A necessary first step in addressing the biases that we have as individuals, and on teams and in workplaces

SEEK EDUCATION AND CULTIVATE SELF-AWARENESS

Be conscious of and curious about your own perceptions and beliefs. Learning also requires unlearning.

CONSIDER PERSPECTIVE OF OTHERS

Invite different viewpoints and recognize the multiple perspectives present to every situation.

ADDRESS THE SYSTEMIC LEVEL

Build policies, practices, and work culture that actively interrupts bias rather than ignoring it.

ADDRESSING IMPLICIT BIAS

Choice Points

Key decision-making opportunities to consciously consider equity and influence outcomes.

The cumulative impacts of many small choices can be as significant as the impacts of big decisions.





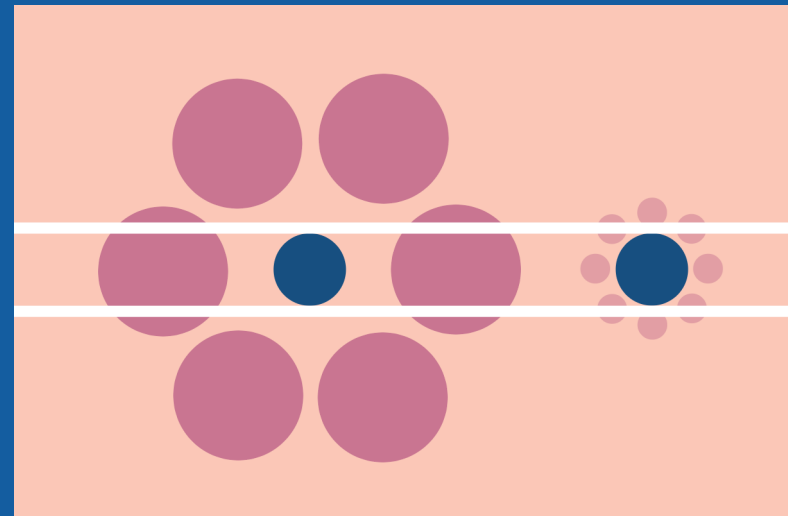
Choice Points

- What is a choice point in your work where you can exercise your power or leadership to address bias?
- What will be the challenges/barriers to this choice point?
- Who can you partner with in your choice point? What resources can you tap into for this choice point?

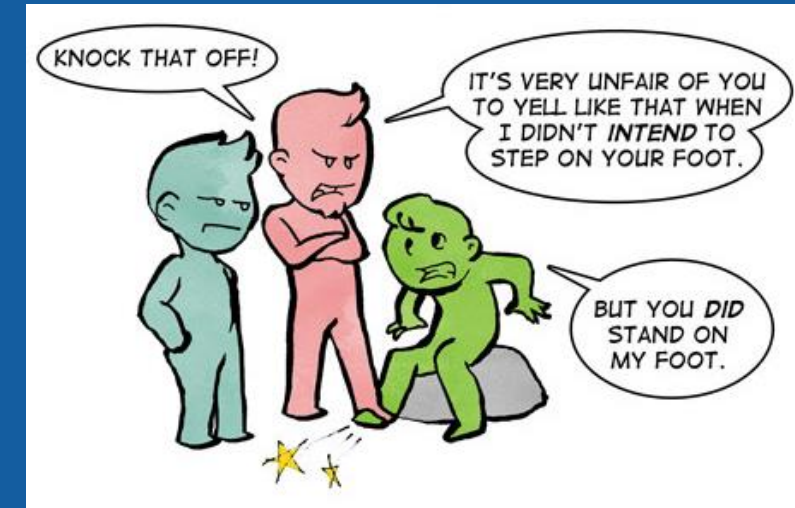
RECAP OF TODAY'S LEARNING



Identity



Implicit Bias



Intent vs. Impact



Scenarios



Choice Points

CLOSING REFLECTION

