



Pacific Media Workers Guild

The NewsGuild - Communications Workers of America Local 39521

433 Natoma Street, San Francisco, California 94103, 415.421.6833, Fax 415.421.3751

June 23, 2017

Mayor Jesse Arreguin
Chief of Police Andrew Greenwood
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
mayor@cityofberkeley.info
police@cityofberkeley.info

RE: Police failure to honor press pass and use of force against a journalist

Dear Mayor Arreguin and Police Chief Greenwood:

As executive officer of the Pacific Media Workers Guild CWA Local 39521, I request a meeting to discuss the refusal of the Berkeley Police Department to recognize the press pass of one of our members covering a City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 20th, 2017, and the subsequent events that took place. Further, we protest the use of excessive force, causing injury to her as she attempted to do her job documenting the events surrounding the protests over the city's participation in Urban Shield.

On the evening of Tuesday, June 20th, CWA member and photojournalist Brooke Anderson was covering the Berkeley city council special hearing on Urban Shield at Longfellow Middle School. She had been present all night, documenting the testimony and deliberations, and followed residents into the street as they protested the arrest of two people. She showed officers her press pass and verbally notified them that she was a photojournalist covering the events. Ignoring both her pass and her attempt to communicate with them, officers repeatedly pushed her and struck her in the arm with a baton, and pushed her camera into her face.

She posed no threat to the officers. At the time, her arm was visibly bandaged from a previous injury, and officers struck her bandage. She sustained bruises that are still visible.

Anderson is an accredited journalist with a press pass issued by our union, and was attempting to do her job. Her photos of the evening were published by *The San Francisco Chronicle*. We take the safety of our members very seriously. It is inexcusable that one of our members was the target of this kind of excessive force by the Berkeley Police Department. We expect that when we issue press passes to our members, police will respect the job journalists are there to do in accordance with the First Amendment to our nation's Constitution, which you have sworn to uphold.

We request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss these events, and to ensure that our members are able to do their work safely in Berkeley. Please contact me promptly to arrange this meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carl Hall, Executive Officer

Pacific Media Workers Guild , News Guild Local 39521, CWA, AFL-CIO

Phone: 415-298-2265

Email: chall@mediaworkers.org

cc: Derek Moore, President, Pacific Media Workers Guild
 David Bacon, Chair, Guild Freelancers, a unit of Pacific Media Workers Guild
 Brooke Anderson, member, Pacific Media Workers Guild
 Richard Knee, Vice-President, California, Pacific Media Workers Guild
 Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter
 Josie Camacho, Executive Secretary, Alameda County Labor Council, AFL-CIO