

City of Richmond, California
 Community Police Review Commission
PUBLIC CASE SUMMARY

Case #	Date Received	Date Completed
2020-6 (Lin)	8/29/2020	5/5/2021

CATEGORY OF CONDUCT: (check one)

Unnecessary Force	Racial Bias
<u>X</u>	

FINDING OF FACT: (brief summary of complaint and investigation)

On May 30, 2020, complainant Sarah Belle Lin was involved in an incident with Richmond PD officers who provided mutual aid to Oakland Police Department in policing protests in downtown Oakland. At around 11:20 PM that evening, Lin was present in Latham Square in downtown Oakland following the broadcast of several dispersal orders due to rioting activities by the crowd. Additionally, Lin was videotaping the police and protest activity with a black camera she was carrying.

The events immediately preceding this incident included many members of the crowd launching cement, rocks, bricks, gold balls, and other items at officers, setting public property on fire, and damaging public and private property. At times during the protest, individuals with firearms fired them. An RPD officer, who was acting as a grenadier, was part of a mutual aide mobile field force from Contra Costa County during the protest, along with other RPD officers. The officer observed Lin advancing in a crouching position toward several Contra Costa Sheriff's deputies who were arresting a man. The officer could see a black metal object in Lin's hands but could not discern what it was. While Lin wore a lanyard with a small press badge hanging from it, this was not visible to the officer. The officer yelled loudly at Lin to get back, but she did not do so. The officer's duties included protecting officers who were arresting protesters. Supervisors on the scene had authorized him to use 40 MM projectiles on protesters who failed to heed orders to leave. The officer fired a 40 mm chalk "marking round" at Lin and hit her in the inner thigh. The officer explained that he did so to protect the deputies from imminent risk of potential danger and because Lin continued to advance despite being ordered to back up.

Given the totality of the circumstances evident from the investigative evidence, it is probable that the involved officer was justified in using the level of force employed in this incident. Accordingly, the Commission Exonerated the officer of the allegation.

RECOMMENDED FINDINGS: (check one)

<u>SUSTAINED</u>	<u>NOT-SUSTAINED</u>	<u>UNFOUNDED</u>	<u>EXONERATED</u>
			<u>X</u>