

Central City **SRO** Collaborative

Date: October 20, 2023

To: San Francisco County Board of Supervisors
Rules Committee

Subj: PROPOSED INITIATIVE re COMMUNITY POLICING
PLANS; FOOT & BIKE PATROLS

Good morning, Supervisors

As a resident of the Tenderloin, a resident leader, and member of CCSROC, I stand before you today to speak on promissory notes issued to a neighborhood but never delivered by a city with a rich history of being at the forefront of political trend setting which are later followed by others around the world. San Francisco and San Franciscans should be proud of many of the first which have been mimicked around the world. The realities are – I wonder from day-to-day, one hour to the next and the times when I step out of my building IF today is that day that I won't make it back home. I wonder if my body will be the next body in the corner's van simply because I walked a block to the store but unbeknownst to me, I will be hit by a speeding motorist or caught in the crossfire of two factions who are claiming a right to sell fentanyl or fentanyl laced products in front of the building adjacent to mine. Death is final – but my pursuit of “feeling safe” or “being safe” was never attained.

The objectives and goals of any government should be to put public safety first and put their officers in a position to better serve its communities. Every person, in every home, on every street, in every city and state has a fundamental right to “feel safe” in their community! Over the course of our existence, CCSROC has engaged in 22 campaigns focused on building a better community, but our first campaign continues today because every resident in our community does not feel safe. During the past 22 years, we have sat and met with five previous Station Captains and rank-in-file staff from the Tenderloin Station. Captain Carl Fabbri, Captain Joe Garrity, Captain Chris Canning, Captain Jason Cherniss, and Captain Sergio Chin, past and current mayors, and members of the Board of Supervisors.

We have attended and hosted community meetings. We have partnered with other organizations to echo one theme ... “public safety”, four (4) administrations over 22 years and we still do not have the one thing we have requested, echoed and every month reminded law enforcement we need ‘police on the streets.’ Today, we see that the Board of Supervisors gets it. Countless events have occurred in our city that were unnecessary over the past two decades that likely would not have taken place had our elected officials taken Public Safety more seriously. More to the point, in recent times our Public Safety Committee met with Chief Scott and his command staff to discuss our (then) demand of a more robust approach to open air drug use and sales near schools and parks; our demand for foot beat policing with emphasis on meeting the business owners and

residents on each of the approximate 40 blocks that make up the Tenderloin. We placed an immediate and long-term timeline in each of three specific asks. Promises were made by the Chief as he shook hands and departed. We have not seen him or the implementation of our Zero Tolerance plan. We were later informed by Chief Scott that he had forwarded our plan to Captain Chin. Captain Chin did nothing with it.

The Tenderloin is a neighborhood that has embraced suggestions for enhanced policing in our community. In fact, we are on record as saying 'YES'. But where is it? We were once told by a member of SFPD that, he 'leads by example' in his next breath said, 'this is how officers learn'. That statement when made had good intentions. What we saw from the individual who made it – was a clear indication that their leadership is probably not what we want. We have learned to speak the language of SFPD. What we lack is the ability to determine what their currency looks like.

Today, as I stand here before this committee it's clear that you have not been able to determine that currency either. So, you just ask the voters of San Francisco to amend the City Charter to get the police to do (what) ... the job they are paid to do (?). We are reluctant to support another change to our city charter. Why won't SFPD simply do the job they are paid to do? Why do we have to change anything. We require meaningful assurance from the members of this board that the police of this city *will* perform the duties for which they are paid, hold the Police Chief and Police Commission accountable to the citizens of this city. \$500K is what the Chief of Police is paid – and can you tell me once more the reason we are amending the City Charter ?. I end with this statement: "The objectives and goals of any government should be to put public safety first and put their officers in a position to better serve its communities. Every person, in every home, on every street, in every city and state has a fundamental right to "feel safe" in their community!"

The voters of this city resolved the problems of our previous District Attorney, and we now have a DA who is doing amazing things with far less than what SFPD receives. CCSROC Public Safety exists because it does not exist within our city government. Our campaign will no longer be needed when people are safe.

For: CCSROC Public Safety Committee

By: GREGG JOHNSON, Special Projects Organizer

Member – Board of Directors | Tenderloin Community Benefit District

Attachment (1)

NEW TOLERANCE

THE LANGUAGE OF THE TENDERLOIN

WITHIN 30 DAYS

1. We want the restoration of our parks, playgrounds and other areas that are used for small gatherings to be returned to the community as DRUG FREE ZONES. No sales or use of drugs or camping or sleeping on any street for 4 square blocks of that school, park, playground and/or other area used for small gatherings 24/7/365.¹
2. We want meaningful police foot beats/patrols of the 50 blocks of the Tenderloin. We want to see the officers stopping in on businesses and greeting residents, property managers, store owner of the community. Engaging and building bridges with the community. Use technologies owned by the department to identify those who are travelling to the TLs from other cities, to purchase drugs. Seized vehicles when drug transactions are observed.²
3. Enlisting the services of HSH and the Office of Homelessness, end the years of homelessness throughout the Tenderloin using the laws of the City, County and State to ensure that they accept housing assistance or leave San Francisco.³

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

- A. ¹ Within 30 days of implementation, we are demanding to see a plan that will permanently address and cease open-air drug sales, homelessness, and general drug usage. It should have realistic dates and measurable progress included.
- B. ² Within 30 days of implementation, we are demanding to see the plan by which police foot beats/patrols will become a permanent part of the police activities of the Tenderloin Police Sub-Station.
- C. ³ Using the full weight of the Mayor's Office and other Human Services agencies, develop a permanent strategic plan to ensure that homelessness is never a problem (again) in the TLs.