

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Suhr, Chief, Police Department
George Gascon, District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Committee Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: February 17, 2016

SUBJECT: HEARING MATTER INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following hearing request, introduced by Supervisor Campos on February 9, 2016:

File No. 160125

Hearing on the increase in car break-ins citywide, and car break-in trends and prevention strategies, including plans to implement successful tactics used by the Police Bureau Task Force in neighborhoods outside of District 6; and requesting the San Francisco Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office to report.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c:
Christine Fountain, Police Department
Sergeant Rachael Kilshaw, Police Department
Cristine Soto DeBerry, Office of the District Attorney
Maxwell Szabo, Office of the District Attorney

160125

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion, or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Campos

Subject:

Follow-up hearing on efforts to address the epidemic of car break-ins in San Francisco.

The text is listed below or attached:

On January 21, 2016, Supervisors Wiener and Yee held a hearing at the Government Audit & Oversight Committee on increase in property crime and car break-ins citywide and property crime trends and prevention strategies. At the hearing, Commander Chaplin presented data showing a 250% increase in car break-ins between 2011-2015. Responding to the massive increase in car break-ins, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) recently created a new unit called the Patrol Bureau Task Force to tackle the problem in District 6 where car break-ins are relatively more frequent than in other parts of the city. While the Patrol Bureau Task Force is relatively new, since it was created, early data shows that the number of car break-ins have declined.

Car break-ins are a major problem throughout the City. Residents of District 9 are so frustrated with car break-ins and the City's response to the problem that they often do not even file reports when they are victims of this crime. The City needs to have a more comprehensive, citywide plan to tackle car break-ins.

I am calling a follow-up hearing on this issue to address the following additional points and questions that were not addressed at the January 21st hearing?

To the San Francisco Police Department

- Do you have any plans to use the successful tactics used by the Police Bureau Task Force in neighborhoods outside of District 6 to tackle the problem of car break-ins?
- Why has SFPD only referred 487 cases out of the 25,813 cases of reported auto burglary in 2015 to the District Attorney for prosecution? This represents a referral rate of only 2% of reported cases.
- If part of the low referral rate is due to absence of witness testimony, has the department considered using bait cars or temporary cameras in known hot spot areas to catch robbers on film when they are in the act?
- Is there a centralized unit that receives and analyzes car break-in reports or is each district station responsible for receiving and analyzing reports and data on car break-ins? Is there anyone in the SFPD responsible for developing strategies to address this crime citywide?
- I know that SFPD is developing a new crime reporting app that residents can download on their phones. Will this app include any specific way to report car break-ins? If so, where will those reports go? Will they be treated differently than the reports that are now filed by phone or in person at district stations?

To the District Attorney's Office

- Of the 487 car break-in referrals you received from SFPD in 2015, you took action on 390 of those cases. What were the results of that action?
- You mentioned a special prosecutions unit that works with the police to engage in specific strategies to target hot spot areas in the city where car break-ins are more frequent. Is this collaboration working? Can you expand the unit to work on hot spot areas throughout the city?

I request that this hearing is forwarded to the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee. I respectfully ask the clerk of the Board to forward this hearing request to the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's Office.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only: