

July 6, 2020

Members of the Rules Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco, CA

Re: Item 200515 – Charter Amendment, Police Department Staffing Levels

Dear Supervisors Stefani, Mar and Ronen,

I am writing to strongly support the proposed Charter Amendment that would remove the police minimum staffing requirement from the SF Charter and replace it with a requirement for a bi-annual report recommending staffing levels that would be considered by the Police Commission in developing the SFPD budget.

As the former ED of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, the former Director of DCYF, and as a private citizen I have spent many years involved in the San Francisco budget process working to ensure that our budget reflects the needs of our families and the priorities of the public. This measure would ensure a rational process for determining the police staffing pattern, and would allow not only for a regular study of the matter, but adequate public input into the decision.

This measure is particularly important given the current recognition that as a society we must reassess the proper role of police. There is a growing consensus that many functions that have been traditionally assumed by police should be more appropriately taken on by other types of personnel, such as mental health workers, social workers, and community outreach staff. Unless this charter amendment is passed, San Francisco will have its hands tied in developing a more responsive and effective structure for the Police Department and other functions of government.

Thank you for your consideration.



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