

[Eliminating the Police Department minimum staffing requirement.]

## CHARTER AMENDMENT

### PROPOSITION \_\_\_\_

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by amending Sections 4.127 and 16.123, to eliminate the Police Department minimum staffing requirement.

The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 4, 2008, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by amending Sections 4.127 and 16.123, to read as follows:

Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*.  
Deletions are ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman*~~.

#### **SEC. 4.127. POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

*(a)* The Police Department shall preserve the public peace, prevent and detect crime, and protect the rights of persons and property by enforcing the laws of the United States, the State of California and the City and County.

The Chief of Police may appoint and remove at pleasure special police officers.

The Chief of Police shall have all powers which are now or that may be conferred upon a sheriff by state law with respect to the suppression of any riot, public tumult, disturbance of the public peace or organized resistance against the laws or public authority.

*(b)* **DISTRICT POLICE STATIONS.** The Police Department shall maintain and operate district police stations. The Police Commission, subject to the approval by the Board of Supervisors, may establish additional district stations, abandon or relocate any district station, or consolidate any two or more district stations.

*(c)* **OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS.** The Mayor shall appoint a nominee of the Police Commission as the director of the Office of Citizen Complaints, subject to

confirmation by the Board of Supervisors. The director shall serve at the pleasure of the Police Commission. If the Board fails to act on the appointment within 30 days, the appointment shall be deemed approved. In the event the office is vacant, until the mayor makes an appointment and that appointment is confirmed by the Board, the Police Commission shall appoint an interim director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Police Commission. The appointment shall be exempt from the civil service requirements of this Charter. The director shall never have been a uniformed member or employee of the department. The director of the Office of Citizen Complaints shall be the appointing officer under the civil service provisions of this Charter for the appointment, removal or discipline of employees of the Office of Citizen Complaints.

The Police Commission shall have the power and duty to organize, reorganize and manage the Office of Citizen Complaints. Subject to the civil service provisions of this Charter, the Office of Citizen Complaints shall include investigators and hearing officers. As of July 1, 1996, the staff of the Office of Citizen Complaints shall consist of no fewer than one line investigator for every 150 sworn members. Whenever the ratio of investigators to police officers specified by this section is not met for more than 30 consecutive days, the director shall have the power to hire, and the City Controller must pay, temporary investigators to meet such staffing requirements. No full-time or part-time employee of the Office of Citizen Complaints shall have previously served as a uniformed member of the department. Subject to rule of the Police Commission, the director of the Office of Citizen Complaints may appoint part-time hearing officers who shall be exempt from the civil service requirements of this Charter. Compensation of the hearing officers shall be at rates recommended by the Commission and established by the Board of Supervisors or by contract approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Complaints of police misconduct or allegations that a member of the Police Department has not properly performed a duty shall be promptly, fairly and impartially investigated by staff of the Office of Citizen Complaints. The Office of Citizen Complaints shall investigate all complaints of police misconduct, or that a member of the Police Department has not properly

performed a duty, except those complaints which on their face clearly indicate that the acts complained of were proper and those complaints lodged by other members of the Police Department. The Office of Citizen Complaints shall use its best efforts to conclude investigations of such complaints and, if sustained, transmit the sustained complaint to the Police Department within nine (9) months of receipt thereof by the Office of Citizen Complaints. If the Office of Citizen Complaints is unable to conclude its investigation within such nine-month period, the director of the Office of Citizen Complaints, within such nine-month period, shall inform the Chief of Police of the reasons therefor and transmit information and evidence from the investigation as shall facilitate the Chief's timely consideration of the matter. The Office of Citizen Complaints shall recommend disciplinary action to the Chief of Police on those complaints that are sustained. The director of the Office of Citizen Complaints, after meeting and conferring with the Chief of Police or his or her designee, may verify and file charges with the Police Commission against members of the Police Department arising out of sustained complaints; provided, that the director may not verify and file such charges for a period of 60 days following the transmittal of the sustained complaint to the Police Department unless the director issues a written determination that the limitations period within which the member or members may be disciplined under Government Code Section 3304, as amended from time to time or any successor provisions thereto, may expire within such 60-day period and either (i) the Chief of Police fails or refuses to file charges with the Police Commission arising out of the sustained complaint, (ii) the Chief of Police or his or her designee fails or refuses to meet and confer with the director on the matter, or (iii) other exigent circumstances necessitate that the director verify and file charges to preserve the ability of the Police Commission to impose punishment pursuant to Section A8.343. The director of the Office of Citizen Complaints shall schedule hearings before hearing officers when such is requested by the complainant or a member of the department and, in accordance with rules of the Commission, such a hearing will facilitate the fact-finding process. The Board of Supervisors may provide by ordinance that the

Office of Citizen Complaints shall in the same manner investigate and make recommendations to the Chief of Police regarding complaints of misconduct by patrol special police officers and their uniformed employees.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the Chief of Police or a commanding officer from investigating the conduct of a member of the department under his or her command, or taking disciplinary or corrective action, otherwise permitted by this Charter, when such is warranted; and nothing herein shall limit or otherwise restrict the disciplinary powers vested in the Chief of Police and the Police Commission by other provisions of this Charter.

The Office of Citizen Complaints shall prepare in accordance with rules of the Commission monthly summaries of the complaints received and shall prepare recommendations quarterly concerning policies or practices of the department which could be changed or amended to avoid unnecessary tension with the public or a definable segment of the public while insuring effective police services. The Office of Citizen Complaints shall prepare a report for the President of the Board of Supervisors each quarter. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and type of complaints filed, the outcome of the complaints, and a review of the disciplinary action taken. The President of the Board of Supervisors shall refer this report to the appropriate committee of the Board of Supervisors charged with public safety responsibilities. Said committee may issue recommendations as needed.

In carrying out its objectives the Office of Citizen Complaints shall receive prompt and full cooperation and assistance from all departments, officers and employees of the City and County which shall promptly produce all records requested by the Office of Citizen Complaints except for records the disclosure of which to the Office of Citizen Complaints is prohibited by law. The director may also request and the Chief of Police shall require the testimony or attendance of any member of the Police Department to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Citizen Complaints.

(d) **BUDGET.** Monetary awards and settlements disbursed by the City and County as a result of police action or inaction shall be taken exclusively from a specific appropriation listed as a separate line item in the Police Department budget for that purpose.

(e) **POLICE STAFFING.** ~~The police force of the City and County shall at all times consist of not fewer than 1,971 full duty sworn officers. The staffing level of the Police Department shall be maintained with a minimum of 1,971 full duty sworn officers thereafter. That figure may be adjusted pursuant to Section 16.123.~~

~~All officers and employees of the City and County are directed to take all acts necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The Board of Supervisors is empowered to adopt ordinances necessary to effectuate the purpose of this section including but not limited to ordinances regulating the scheduling of police training cases.~~

~~Further, the The Police Commission shall initiate an annual review to civilianize as many positions as possible to maximize police presence in the communities and submit that report to the Board of Supervisors annually for review and approval.~~

~~The number of full duty sworn officers in the Police Department dedicated to neighborhood policing and patrol for fiscal year 1993-1994 shall not be reduced in future years, and all new full duty sworn officers authorized for the Police Department shall also be dedicated to neighborhood community policing, patrol and investigations.~~

(f) **PATROL SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS.** The Commission may appoint patrol special police officers and for cause may suspend or dismiss patrol special police officers after a hearing on charges duly filed with the Commission and after a fair and impartial trial. Patrol special police officers shall be regulated by the Police Commission, which may establish requirements for and procedures to govern the position, including the power of the Chief of Police to suspend a patrol special police officer pending a hearing on charges. Each patrol special police officer shall be at the time of appointment not less than 21 years of age and must possess such physical qualifications as may be required by the Commission.

Patrol special police officers may be designated by the Commission as the owners of a certain beat or territory which may be established or rescinded by the Commission. Patrol special police officers designated as the owners of a certain beat or territory or the legal heirs or representatives of the owners may dispose of their interest in the beat or territory to a person of good moral character, approved by the Police Commission and eligible for appointment as a patrol special police officer.

Commission designation of beats or territories shall not affect the ability of private security companies to provide on-site security services on the inside or at the entrance of any property located in the City and County.

#### **SEC. 16.123. CIVILIAN POSITIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

~~*(a) The Controller shall review sworn and civilian staffing needs in the San Francisco Police Department. As part of that review, the Controller shall review police staffing levels and patterns in comparable jurisdictions, and best practices regarding police staffing.*~~

~~*The Controller and the Chief of Police shall also audit all positions in the Police Department and identify those positions that must be filled by sworn officers and those that could be filled by civilian personnel or that, under best practices in other jurisdictions, typically are filled by civilian personnel.*~~

~~*In conducting these studies, the Controller and the Chief of Police shall consult with the Board of Supervisors' Budget Analyst, the Director of the Department of Human Resources, and a representative of the bargaining unit representing sworn members of the Police Department.*~~

~~*Upon the completion of these studies, the Controller and the Chief of Police shall forward to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors a list of positions in the Police Department currently filled by sworn officers that could be filled by civilian personnel.*~~

~~*Upon submission of the list of positions to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, the provisions of subsection (a) shall expire and the City Attorney shall cause them to be deleted*~~

*from future publications of the Charter, and shall cause the remaining provisions to be relettered accordingly.*

*(a) (b)* Positions in the Police Department may only be converted from sworn to civilian as they become vacant. No sworn officer shall be laid off in order to convert a position to civilian personnel.

*(b)* If the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors propose to convert positions in the Police Department from sworn officers to civilian personnel through the budget process, ~~the minimum staffing level set in Section 4.127 shall be reduced by the same number of positions if~~ the Controller and the Chief of Police shall report on whether jointly certify that the reduction would will not decrease the number of police officers dedicated to neighborhood community policing, patrol and investigations or would and will not substantially interfere with the delivery of police services or the ability of the Police Department to protect the public in the event of an emergency.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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