

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment and Initiative Ordinance - Community Policing and Foot Patrols]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to require the Police Commission to hold a public hearing once a year regarding community policing and foot patrols; and to make related amendments to the Administrative Code to require the Commission, in consultation with the Chief of Police, to establish a neighborhood safety unit in the Police Department and a community policing policy, and to require foot patrols in crime-impacted areas within the boundaries of each police district station with standards governing the operation of the foot patrols, and to require the Department to submit biannual reports to the Commission and the Board of Supervisors on the effectiveness of deploying foot patrols in those crime-impacted areas.

Existing Law

Under the City Charter, the Police Commission sets policy for the Police Department (“SFPD”), and the SFPD must dedicate officers to neighborhood community policing, patrol and investigations, among other police duties. There is no existing law that requires foot patrol officers.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed measure includes both a Charter amendment and an amendment to the Administrative Code. The Charter amendment would require the Police Commission to hold a public hearing at least once each calendar year to consider policies or strategies regarding community policing and foot patrols. The Commission could adopt new policies and strategies or modify existing policies and strategies.

The Administrative Code amendments would require the SFPD to create a Neighborhood Safety Unit (“NSU”) within each district station focused on community engagement in deploying foot patrol officers. The purpose of the NSU would be to ensure opportunities for patrol officers to regularly interact with neighborhood residents and faith leaders, business leaders, and others in the community.

The Police Commission would be required to adopt and create a comprehensive “Community Policing Policy” focused on fostering collaboration and communication with the community.

The Police Commission in consultation with the Chief of Police, would be required to develop a foot patrol strategy to identify the areas where foot patrol officers are most needed. This would include the development of a map outlining the footprint of the foot beats within the

boundaries of each of the SFPD's district stations. This map would delineate the street locations the foot patrol officers may travel based on the reporting of crime, crime prevention, foot traffic, and other factors.

The Chief of Police would be required to assign foot patrol officers to each district station. In each budget cycle for the SFPD, the Chief of Police would be required to submit a proposed budget and level of staffing for each NSU.

The SFPD would be required to provide minimum training requirements for foot patrol officers. The SFPD would also be required to compile data regarding reported crime within the foot beats and to issue quarterly reports to the Police Commission.

Twice a year, the SFPD would be required to submit to the Board of Supervisors and the Police Commission a comprehensive report analyzing the effectiveness of foot patrols in reducing crime within each of the district station boundaries.

n:\legana\as2020\2000216\01449119.docx