

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 2018 - 2019 CIVIL GRAND JURY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*** PRESS RELEASE ***

THE JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE BALANCING SAFETY WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

San Francisco, CA, July 17, 2019 – There is little dispute that San Francisco is a target for terrorists, both domestic and international, for its iconic landmarks and its reputation as a bastion of civil liberties. The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) was a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) from 2002 to early 2017 operating under a 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FBI. In 2007, a revised MOU was signed that had a ten year expiration date under the terms of the City Charter.

On February 1, 2017, the newly appointed Chief of Police suspended the SFPD's participation with the JTTF as a result of the anticipated expiration of the MOU and the concerns brought forth by civil rights groups. Since that time, SFPD officers have not been members of the JTTF, and no significant progress has been made toward addressing the issues that led to the suspension.

It is the responsibility of the Mayor and Chief of Police to make the decision as to whether it is in the best interest of the residents of the City to have SFPD re-join the JTTF collaboration. The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury (SFCGJ) is not making a recommendation on whether SFPD should rejoin the JTTF, but prepared this report to stimulate discussion and action by those in charge.

Civil Grand Jury reports may be viewed online at <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/report.html>.

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