

1 [Committee of the Whole - Update on Findings and Recommendations Regarding Law  
2 Enforcement Practices - September 22, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.]

3 **Motion directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to schedule a Committee of the**  
4 **Whole hearing on September 22, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., for the Members of the Board of**  
5 **Supervisors to hear and receive updates on the progress and implementation status of**  
6 **the United States Department of Justice recommendations regarding reforms within the**  
7 **Police Department.**

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9 WHEREAS, After a series of officer involved shootings, the Police Department (PD)  
10 partnered with the United States Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented  
11 Policing Services (DOJ/COPS) to conduct an independent assessment through the  
12 Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (CRI-TA); and

13 Whereas, In February 2016, the DOJ/COPS launched a six-month comprehensive  
14 review of the SFPD, with the goal to improve on the implementation of the principles of  
15 community oriented policing practices, transparency, professionalism, and accountability; and

16 WHEREAS, On October 12, 2016, the DOJ/COPS released its initial assessment and  
17 provided 272 recommendations for improvement within the department; the areas of review  
18 included Use of Force, Bias, Community Policing, Accountability, and Hiring and Personnel  
19 Practices; and

20 WHEREAS, On October 18, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted Motion  
21 No. M16-141, scheduling the Board to sit as a Committee of the Whole on  
22 November 15, 2016, in a joint meeting with the Police Commission, to hold a public hearing to  
23 consider the findings and recommendations of the Department of Justice Initial Assessment  
24 Report of the San Francisco Police Department; the President's Task Force on 21st Century  
25 Policing; the Civil Grand Jury’s report, entitled “Into the Open: Opportunities for More Timely

1 and Transparent Investigations of Fatal San Francisco Police Department Officer-Involved  
2 Shootings;” and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Transparency, Accountability, and Fairness in Law  
3 Enforcement (the “Blue Ribbon Panel”); and

4 WHEREAS, On October 18, 2016, the Board also adopted Motion No. M16-142,  
5 scheduling quarterly Committees of the Whole hearings regarding the final report, findings,  
6 and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel, beginning in February 2017; and

7 WHEREAS, The Board held three such Committee of the Whole hearings in 2017, with  
8 the last being held on September 26, 2017; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 15, 2017, the Department of Justice announced its  
10 withdrawal from the Collaborative Reform Process, and on February 5, 2018, the California  
11 Department of Justice announced its agreement to publicly evaluate and report on the  
12 implementation of the U.S. DOJ recommendations; and

13 WHEREAS, The following areas are stated to be the focus of the Collaborative Reform  
14 Initiative between the California Department of Justice, the City of San Francisco, and the  
15 Police Department: use of force policies and practices; policies, practices and training to  
16 address issues of bias in policing; community-oriented policing strategies and protocols;  
17 policies and practices regarding accountability processes; and recruitment, hiring and  
18 personnel practices; and

19 WHEREAS, In May of 2019, the California Department of Justice issued a progress  
20 report regarding Phase I of the Collaborative Reform Initiative between the City and County of  
21 San Francisco, the San Francisco Police Department, and the California Department of  
22 Justice, covering the period from September 17, 2018, through December 21, 2018; and

23 WHEREAS, The work of Phase I was focused on establishing the framework,  
24 processes and procedures to support the process of reform, and during this Phase, the Police  
25 Department prioritized 63 recommendations for review including those on Use of Force, Bias

1 and Accountability of which DOJ found 13 recommendations to be compliant, largely because  
2 internal accountability controls were not in place; and

3 WHEREAS, As two years had passed since the September 2017 Committee of the  
4 Whole without formal updates to the Board of Supervisors regarding implementation of the  
5 DOJ recommendations, and given the release of the May 2019 DOJ report, the Board held a  
6 Committee of the Whole on October 22, 2019, featuring both the Police Department and  
7 Hillard Heinze, the consultant for the California Department of Justice who presented updates  
8 regarding the status of reforms; and

9 WHEREAS, In March of 2020, the DOJ released its report on Phase II of the  
10 Collaborative Reform Initiative, which covered the time period between December 22, 2018,  
11 through August 22, 2019; and

12 WHEREAS, The March 2020 DOJ report found that more progress had been made,  
13 pointing specifically to reduced use of force incidents, and that the Police Department had  
14 become substantially compliant with 40 recommendations related to use of force, bias free  
15 policing, and civilian complaints, and more still under review; and

16 WHEREAS, The report also noted that “Cal DOJ is concerned that SFPD’s progress is  
17 too slow. The failure to implement a greater number of the recommendations is delaying the  
18 SFPD’s fulfillment of its promise to the community to get this work done,” and pointed also to  
19 concerns relating to “reports of anti-Black bias within the department and with the persistent  
20 disproportionate use of force against African American and Latino individuals;” and

21 WHEREAS, The Police Commission has begun hearing monthly reports on reform  
22 efforts and the status of implementation of the DOJ recommendations; and

23 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors sees a continued role for themselves in  
24 ensuring the full and timely implementation of the DOJ recommendations for the Police  
25 Department; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall schedule a Committee of the Whole  
2 hearing on September 22, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. for the Members of the Board of Supervisors to  
3 hear and receive an update on the progress and implementation status of the Department of  
4 Justice recommendations for reform within the Police Department.

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