

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1185 (McCarty) - Sheriff Oversight]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1185, authored by Assembly**
4 **Member Kevin McCarty, and co-authored by Senator Holly Mitchell, Assembly Members**
5 **Autumn Burke, Mike Gipson, and Christopher Holden, to authorize each county to**
6 **establish a sheriff oversight board and urging Governor Gavin Newsom to sign AB**
7 **1185.**

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9 WHEREAS, There is currently a national movement for justice reform across the
10 United States to end decades of race-based brutality and to increase public accountability and
11 transparency of law enforcement agencies; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2015, the late San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi began
13 investigation stories from incarcerated individuals who were forced into gladiator fights against
14 each other by sheriff deputies; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2018, in rural Trinity County, then-Sheriff Bruce Haney moved six hours
16 away to Oregon, stopped coming to work and still collected his salary and benefits without
17 public accountability; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2018, Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones locked the county's then-
19 inspector general, Rick Braziel out of his department, revoking all access to records and
20 personnel and effectively bringing all independent investigation to a halt because he did not
21 agree with the criticisms of the department from the inspector general; and

22 WHEREAS, Sheriff oversight has been long overdue in the State of California; and

23 WHEREAS, On January 12, 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted
24 to implement a Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission and Inspector General, one of the first
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1 in the state, with the mission to improve public transparency and accountability of the Los
2 Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and

3 WHEREAS, On February 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors requested a hearing to
4 inquire why the San Francisco Sheriff's Office, as a law enforcement agency, lacks an
5 oversight body in light of reports of sheriff deputies mistreating incarcerated individuals; and

6 WHEREAS, On February 21, 2019, Assembly Member Kevin McCarty of Sacramento
7 introduced California Assembly Bill No. 1185 (AB 1185), to authorize counties to establish a
8 sheriff oversight board and an inspector general either by action of the board of supervisors or
9 through a vote of county residents; and

10 WHEREAS, AB 1185 would authorize the chair of the oversight board and the
11 inspector general to issue a subpoena when deemed necessary to investigate a matter such
12 as misconduct within their jurisdiction; and

13 WHEREAS, AB 1185 would allow the county board of supervisors to appoint a chair
14 and members to the sheriff oversight board; and

15 WHEREAS, AB 1185 would mean that sheriffs must comply with oversight efforts; and

16 WHEREAS, Existing lack of oversight has found taxpayers footing the bill for millions of
17 dollars as a result of legal fees of allegations of misconduct against deputies, jailers, and
18 sheriff's department employees in California; and

19 WHEREAS, On July 21, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors submitted File
20 No. 200514, a Charter Amendment to establish a Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and
21 Inspector General to the November 3, 2020, General Election for San Francisco voters to
22 decide; and

23 WHEREAS, The California State Senate passed AB 1185 on August 28, 2020, and the
24 California State Assembly passed AB 1185 on August 31, 2020; and, be it

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1 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is committed to comprehensive
2 and systematic justice reform to provide public transparency and accountability of law
3 enforcement agencies; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors announces its
5 support for Assembly Bill No. 1185 Sheriff Oversight; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges California
7 Governor Gavin Newsom to sign Assembly Bill No. 1185 into law; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
9 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California Governor, California State
10 Legislature as well as the bill's primary sponsor, California Assembly Member Kevin McCarty
11 no later than 30 days upon passage of this Resolution.

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