

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

JOEL P. ENGARDIO

July 22, 2025

Angela Cavillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

via Email: Angela.Cavillo@sfgov.org

Hearing Request: Requesting the San Francisco Police Department to report on the availability of staffing, equipment, and training for traffic enforcement

Dear Madam Clerk,

Pursuant to the power of inquiry and review that City Charter Sec. 16.114 vests in the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, I am requesting a hearing on the city's traffic enforcement practices and capacity, including ideal staffing, equipment, and training required to fulfill City-wide traffic enforcement requests.

Context and Background

In 2025, a San Francisco Civil Grand Jury report found that the City failed to meet its Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities by 2024. In fact, 2024 saw 42 traffic-related deaths – the highest number in two decades.

Since adopting Vision Zero in 2014, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has made notable progress: installing 1,035 new crosswalks, applying turn calming at 223 intersections, repainting 2,461 high-visibility crosswalks, installing 51 miles of protected bikeways, and completing 39 quick-build projects. These are meaningful steps toward safer streets, but enforcement is critical to ensure those improvements have their intended impact.

Each year since 2014, traffic citations have declined – a 95% drop since 2016. This reduction has been linked to shifting SFPD leadership priorities, limited overtime funding, and ongoing staffing shortages. And over the past decade, this issue has been the subject of repeated hearings. However, drivers continue to disregard traffic laws – endangering neighbors, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. More importantly, pedestrians, multi-mobility users, and drivers all perceive our streets feel less safe than ever.

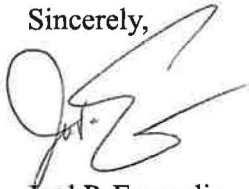
My goal is to go beyond discussing high traffic fatalities and identify the root cause behind this ongoing lack of enforcement.

Given constituents' continued calls for stronger enforcement and safer streets, I am requesting a hearing to ask the San Francisco Police Department respond to the following questions:

- What is the breakdown of traffic citations by violation type over the past decade?
- How many sworn officers are assigned to the Traffic Company at each police station? How many officers are typically deployed per shift? How have these numbers changed over the past 10 years?
- What are the specific responsibilities of officers in the Traffic Company? On average, what percentage of their time is allocated to each responsibility?
- How many officers within the Traffic Company are eligible for retirement within the next 5, 10, and 15 years? What is the plan to recruit and increase the ranks of the Traffic Company?
- What is SFPD's current strategy for training and equipping new officers into the Traffic Company?
- Is there an opportunity for existing officers to be trained for the Traffic Company if interested? If yes, are there incentives to do so?
- What equipment and software are currently used for traffic enforcement? How has this technology evolved over the past decade? Are there parts of the enforcement process that could be improved or expedited through updated technology?
- When did the last full class of motorcycle traffic safety officers graduate?
- Does SFPD proactively prioritize traffic enforcement near schools, parks, senior centers, and other areas with vulnerable populations?

Thank you, Madam Clerk, for facilitating this hearing request. Please feel free to contact me if further clarification is needed by your office or staff from the San Francisco Police Department. Any questions for my office may be directed to my Legislative Aide, Sophie Marie, at sophie.marie@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,



Joel P. Engardio
Supervisor, District 4
San Francisco Board of Supervisors