



June 17, 2016

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

I am urging the Board of Supervisors to prioritize the public safety of our neighborhoods and residents by rejecting the proposal to take more than one-third of the entire San Francisco Police Department budget out of my balanced budget proposal. I am concerned by this attempt to politicize this process which will undermine the safety of all San Franciscans.

We are pushing forward with reforms to the Police Department and working to restore trust within every community. We all understand that police reform is imperative, and we are already making critical investments to accelerate a cultural change within the department and how officers handle conflicts on our City streets. In the proposed budget, we have allocated \$20 million as part of a police reform package to build greater trust between police officers and the community by increasing oversight, transparency and accountability, as well as investing in violence prevention and crisis response and outreach.

We are working collaboratively with the community to develop a 21st Century approach to policing in San Francisco. We are implementing the body worn camera program for every patrol officer. As you know, we are working under the full review of the United States Department of Justice, the nation's highest law enforcement authority.

One of my top priorities is improving neighborhood safety and the quality of life for all San Franciscans. Thus, we must reject this proposal or any proposal that places the Police Department budget on reserve, subjecting it to political whim over the professional public safety judgment of our Chief of Police and Police Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin M. Lee".

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

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SAN FRANCISCO

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