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July 14, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Breed and Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Re: Black Lives Matter - 2016 U.S. DOJ/COPS Assessment File #200742

Dear Mayor Breed and Board of Supervisors,

I reach out to you as a native San Franciscan and on behalf of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. In light of current events and years of systemic racial inequities and injustices, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce writes this letter as an ally to the Black Lives Matter Movement.

We support Supervisor Fewer's introduced motion to hold a committee of the whole hearing on the status of the implementation of these 272 Department of Justice recommendations for the San Francisco Police Department. As our city leadership looks into the budget of SFPD and into avenues to support African American communities, we support following through with the 2016 U.S. Department of Justice and Community Orientated Policing Services Assessment.

This assessment was initially in response to community concerns regarding several controversial officer-involved shootings in 2016, along with racist instances from 2010 to 2015. Former San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and former Police Chief Greg Suhr asked the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) to assess the department's policies and practices through the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (CRI-TA) process.

In this assessment, the COPS Office found:

“A department that is committed to making changes and working with the community. On the other hand, the department has significant deficiencies in the operational systems assessed. Deficiencies were found ranging from outdated use of force policies to inadequate data collection and lack of accountability measures. We also found disparities in traffic stops, post-stop searches, and use of deadly force against African Americans. In addition, there are numerous indicators of implicit and institutionalized bias against minority groups. Focusing on the five objectives, we identified 94 findings and developed 272 associated recommendations.” (Collaborative Reform Initiative; An Assessment of the San Francisco Police Department, Oct. 16)

Since this Obama administration assessment in 2016, no hearing of the Board of Supervisors sitting as a committee of the whole has occurred since 2017. Of the five objectives from the Assessment: Use of Force; Bias; Community Policing; Accountability; Recruitment, Hiring, and Personal Practices,



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not one objective is measured as fully compliant or has been fully reviewed. In Objective 1: Use of Force, only 29 of our 58 use of force recommendations have been deemed substantially compliant by the California Department of Justice.

It is time to reassess these collaborative initiatives. We strongly support a hearing of the committee of the whole, in a joint meeting with the San Francisco Police Commission, to consider the findings and recommendations of the Department of Justice Initial Assessment Report of the San Francisco Police Department.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce views this hearing as a grounded and substantial step towards addressing systemic racial injustices and violence within our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Rodney Fong
CEO & President
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce