

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT SHERIFF OVERSIGHT BOARD & OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL BY SUPERVISOR RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, other counties in the state as well as cities within Alameda County, including the City of Oakland, have already created civilian oversight of law enforcement and independent police inspector positions to address transparency, accountability, and compliance issues as well as to advance community trust, civic participation, and holistic public safety;

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1185 (effective Jan 1, 2021) that authorizes a county such as Alameda County to create a Sheriff Oversight Board, either by action of the Board of Supervisors or through a vote of county residents, comprised of civilians to assist the Board of Supervisors and an office of inspector general, with the chair of the oversight board and the inspector general having the ability to issue subpoena or subpoena duces tecum when deemed necessary to investigate a matter within their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office reports the highest number of inmate deaths in jails and jails-related lawsuits in the region and suffers many other recent issues including: the US Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division confirmed the Sheriff's failure to provide adequate custodial mental health services, the Office recently revealed to the public that 47 deputy sheriffs were employed for years while failing to meet the required mental competency, and ongoing lack of transparency in the Sheriff's budget and operations;

WHEREAS, the majority of people who are detained in Santa Rita Jail are residents of Oakland;

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office includes the city of Oakland; Oakland voters strongly support civilian oversight of law enforcement;

WHEREAS, the Community Police Review Agency routinely receives complaints about Oaklander interactions with sheriff's deputies;

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has played a role in the Oakland Police Department's ability to implement First Amendment assembly policymaking, with the Oakland City Charter 604(b)(4) puts Oakland Police Department policy regarding first amendment assemblies squarely in the Commission's authority.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland Police Commission urges the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to take action and vote on the creation of an oversight body of the Sheriff's Office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Police Commission urges the passage of strong, independent oversight of the Sheriff's Office including:

- a full-time inspector general with subpoena power,
- adequate funding,
- independent legal counsel,
- a community selection panel to recommend for appointment to the Board of Supervisors residents from diverse backgrounds who do not represent county or law enforcement interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland Police Commission requests that the Oakland City Council pass a resolution in support of strong, independent, community oversight of the sheriff's department.

ON MAY 11, 2023, AT A MEETING OF THE OAKLAND POLICE
COMMISSION IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA


PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – MILELE, PETERSON, HARBIN-FORTE, HOWELL, JORDAN, JACKSON

NOES –

ABSENT – HSIEH

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: 
Kelly Yun, Chief of Staff
Oakland Police Commission
City of Oakland, California