



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**Department of Police Accountability**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COMMISSION ADOPTS NEW GENERAL ORDER 3.01 – WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

SAN FRANCISCO - Last night, the San Francisco Police Commission revised General Order 3.01 and implemented a recommendation from the United States Department of Justice to increase civilian oversight over the SFPD's process for issuing rules and regulations. Going forward, the Police Commission and the Department of Police Accountability ("DPA") will participate in any changes to the SFPD's general orders and related bulletins. The DPA will be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard on any proposed changes, and the Police Commission will have final approval authority.

"Over the next five years, the DPA will be reviewing and commenting on each of the SFPD's general orders," said DPA Director Paul Henderson. "The DPA will ensure the rules and regulations are up to date with current civil rights law, and that outside subject matter experts are consulted for every major change."

General Order 3.01 adds several layers of accountability and oversight. First, each of the SFPD's general orders is reviewed at least once every five years. Second, the DPA must receive notice and the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to general orders or bulletins amending those orders. And third, the Police Commission must review and approve all general orders and related bulletins.

In addition, General Order 3.01 recognizes the DPA's authority to initiate new rules. In the past, the DPA advocated for and substantially authored several general orders such as DGO 5.20 (Language Access), DGO 5.21 (Crisis Intervention Team Response to Crisis Calls), and DGO 7.04 (Children of Arrested Parents). The DPA now has the explicit authority to continue this work and publicly propose new general orders before the Police Commission.

Finally, General Order 3.01 increases transparency. The police department must now post on its website all its department general orders and bulletins that don't involve security concerns. The public will now have access to all the rules and regulations that officers must follow.