



LONDON BREED
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Department of Police Accountability

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PAUL DAVID HENDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO – On March 17, 2021, the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability will present the results of the Local Progress: Reform/Transform Scorecard, which evaluated policing practices in twelve big cities that have civilian oversight. Local Progress concluded that for “Independent Oversight,” San Francisco was one of two cities that are “on track to a strong policy.”

“This is a direct result of two 2016 Propositions that separated the Department of Police Accountability from the SFPD budget and gave us the Charter mandate to perform independent investigations of all officer-involved shootings and audits of the SFPD’s uses of force,” said Director Paul Henderson. “When you look back on the argument for Prop D, we were living in a five-year period where eight of 35 officer-involved shootings were investigated. An investigation rate of 25% is not accountability. Over the last five years, DPA has investigated every officer-involved shooting (so we’re investigating 100%) and published a comprehensive audit of the SFPD’s Use-of-Force. This scorecard gives us an opportunity to look back on where we have come, but ‘on track to a strong policy’ does not mean we are done yet.”

“I joined the Police Commission to continue the work I started with Mayor Breed when we were both members of the Board of Supervisors,” said Police Commission President Malia Cohen, lead author of Prop D and Prop G. “In this new role, I’m able to bring my legislative experience to continue addressing the community’s long-standing concerns around policing and disparities.”

Local Progress is a project of the Center for Popular Democracy. The Reform/Transform Toolkit was developed in collaboration with groups that include: the ALCU, Campaign Zero, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Local Progress ranked jurisdictions based on how well their authorizing legislation and written policies met the scorecard criteria. They gave San Francisco their highest marks for Independence, Investigatory Powers, Disciplinary Authority, Public Access, and Policies and Practices.

The DPA’s presentation will focus on two areas where improvements were recommended: transparency and funding. Since the evaluation period concluded, DPA has adopted the recommended transparency best practices and incorporated them into the Annual and Quarterly reports.

We strive to identify and implement the latest oversight best practices and continue working to improve public safety in San Francisco. We also look forward to working with the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and Police Commission to continue strengthening civilian oversight in the City of San Francisco.

The presentation materials can be found on the Police Commission website at: <https://bit.ly/3tvvDQR>

The SFDPA Use-of-Force Audit is available at: <https://openbook.sfgov.org/webreports/details3.aspx?id=2894>

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