



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

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**SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY HOSTS SYMPOSIUM ON
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CALIFORNIA**

San Francisco—On August 23rd and 24th (Friday & Saturday), the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA) will host its first Symposium on Civilian Oversight, Accountability and Transparency of Law Enforcement in California. The symposium will discuss innovative practices and share ideas to improve outcomes in police oversight. Topics will include: dealing with challenges brought forward by SB 1421 and AB 748; best practices and budget development for civilian oversight agencies; outreach, community engagement, and mediation; technology; auditing; and crisis management. The symposium will focus on sharing of information and valuable resources among civilian oversight agencies to promote transparency and accountability in policing. Symposium sessions will include speakers with great experience in their respective fields, including the DPA's mediation and outreach teams – leading developers of programs for the public

The DPA will be joined by several agencies from across California who will share their struggles and successes as the state adapts to the voters' request for increased civilian oversight. As the agency's jurisdiction and mission continue to grow, the DPA works to serve the community as a whole, bridging the gap between civilian complainants and the unique situations that officers must navigate by providing open lines of communication and policy recommendations. Fostering strong relationships improves the interactions between the police and the community, ultimately leading to a significant decrease in cases of officer misconduct. The symposium will provide a unique opportunity for participating agencies to discuss ways to increase effective communication between police departments and communities across the state.

"The concept of civilian oversight has existed in various forms since the 1950s and there are now more than 200 oversight boards across the nation. However, the form of civilian oversight agencies varies by jurisdiction. The DPA is hosting this statewide symposium to help agencies across the state collaborate as they make efforts to expand police oversight. The point of the two day meeting is to continue to build and maintain trust amongst civilian agencies, ensure the quality of the services they deliver, and enhance their mechanisms for local accountability to ensure effective policing in the state's varied communities," says DPA Executive Director Paul Henderson when asked about the Symposium. "The DPA is proud to support regional agencies in making informed decisions to more effectively serve their missions."

SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/ORGINIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF)
- California State Board of Equalization
- City of Long Beach, Citizen Police Complaint Commission
- The Coalition for Police Accountability – Oakland
- The Community Police Review Agency – Oakland
- Los Angeles Office of the Inspector General
- Lyft
- The Oakland Police Commission
- Office of Professional Accountability - Richmond
- The Rosenberg Foundation
- South East Consortium for Equitable Partnership (SECEP)
- City of San Diego Community Review Board on Police Practices
- San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA)
- San Francisco Police Commission
- San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)
- San Francisco Office of the Controller
- San Francisco Office of the Mayor
- San Francisco Sheriff's Department

To learn more about the DPA's pioneering work in police accountability or the Symposium on Civilian Oversight, Accountability and Transparency of Law Enforcement in California, contact DPA's Project and Outreach Manager, Danielle Motley-Lewis at 415-241-7728, or email Danielle.Motley-Lewis@sfgov.org

The DPA, formerly the Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC), has a thirty-five year legacy of strong community support for its mission to provide civilian oversight of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD). It was first established by San Francisco voters through the Board of Supervisor's ballot initiative in 1982. The mission of the Department of Police Accountability is to promptly, fairly and impartially investigate complaints against San Francisco police officers, make policy recommendations regarding police practices and conduct periodic audits of the San Francisco Police Department.