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Yolanda M. Jackson

March 9, 2022

The Honorable London N. Breed
Mayor of San Francisco
Via Email: MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org

San Francisco Police Commission
Vice President Cindy Elias
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Commissioner Larry Yee
Commissioner John Hamasaki
Commissioner James Byrne
Commissioner Jesús Gabriel Yáñez
Via Email: sfpd.commission@sfgov.org

Chief of Police, William Scott
Via Email: william.scott@sfgov.org

Dear Mayor Breed, Commissioners, and Chief Scott:

The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) as an organization has taken an active role in police and criminal justice reform. We have appreciated this vital role and we trust our legal research and informed advocacy have contributed significantly to achieving the important goals of criminal justice and police reform. We have worked closely with the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Police Commission since 2015 because we are committed to collaborative reform which “improves trust between police agencies and the community they serve by allowing for shared input between stakeholders.”ⁱ

We were unaware that March 2, 2022, was President’s Cohen’s last meeting as a Commissioner; therefore we take this opportunity write to thank President Malia Cohen for her extraordinary stewardship of the San Francisco Police Commission. Mayor Breed is commended for nominating such an informed, dedicated and knowledgeable leader to this position and while we regret that President Cohen leaves this post too soon, we are grateful for her time with the Commission, for it was time well spent.

Malia Cohen, as the Supervisor for District 10, took on police reform early on, understanding that data collection was an essential first step to achieve both



transparency and accountability. She drafted the 2016 ordinance establishing Administrative Code Sec. 96A, Law Enforcement Reporting Requirements; Section 96A.3 of the code includes specific requirements for how the San Francisco Police Department reports Stops, Searches, Arrests and Use of Force. Her commitment to working with the SF Police Department to improve the trust of the community has never wavered and her exceptional work, from when she was a Supervisor, endures. She returned to serve San Francisco last January when Mayor Breed named her to the Police Commission, and she recommitted herself to the important and daunting work of police reform. Importantly, the work of the Commission requires the background and the backbone of extraordinary and informed leaders and President Cohen's limited time with the Commission will be most remembered for her ability to unify the Commission and deliver on the promise of reform. She moved forward with deliberate speed as she needed no time to get up to speed.

We trust Mayor Breed will make every effort to fill this vacant position with an individual, like President Cohen, who is fully prepared to continue this important and complex work because there is so much more yet to be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Jackson
Executive Director & General Counsel

¹ San Francisco Police Department Collaborative Reform Initiative, Phase II – 18 Month Progress Report, Hillard Heintze and Cal. Dept. of Justice (Mar. 4, 2020) at 4, *available at* <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Final%20Hillard%20Heintze%20Phase%20II%20Report%20for%20the%20San%20Francisco%20Police%20Department-1.pdf>