Commissioners and Department of Police Accountability –

My name is Jean Bridges and I am a volunteer with Wealth and Disparities in the Black Community.

We wrote both the Police Commission (PC) and the Department of Police Accountability (DPA) in September, only to have no response. The PC only responded last week (albeit without any answer to our specific message) after being contacted again last week. We are THE one Black-led community group in San Francisco for police accountability, now and since 2015. You (PC and DPA) are accountable to the community and MUST be responsive.

We are outraged that the DPA found for NO consequences to be enacted for the officers who executed Mario Woods in 2015, despite what was a textbook case of excessive brutality and disregard for Black life. Where is the “accountability” for police? And again, we received no answer to our email to the DPA regarding justice for Black people in San Francisco – however, Mr. Henderson has since seen fit to go on national television talking about justice for Black lives elsewhere, even while ignoring our outreach and ruling to not hold the killers of Mario Woods accountable.

Black individuals are more than 10 times as likely to be arrested or subject to use of force by SFPD than is a white individual, and more than 5 times as likely as a Hispanic individual, per SFPD’s own numbers and the latest US census data. This is horrific and unacceptable.

We demand the enforcement of the timely and full completion by SFPD of ALL 94 findings and 272 recommendations in the DOJ COPS report as agreed to by SFPD in 2016 and again in 2018. Will the Police Commission and Department of Police Accountability commit now to demanding the completion of ALL of the DOJ COPS findings and recommendations by SFPD?

Will the Police Commission and Department of Police Accountability support the requirement of SFPD to report and present numbers by race quarterly on a per capita basis? Supervisor Ronen as well as the Center for Policing Equity (CPE) support this per capita reporting requirement - with CPE stating this is a minimum reporting standard. We meet with SFPD leadership every quarter on DOJ COPS. We've also met with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and California AG's office. We presented to the BOS Committee of the Whole on Oct 20 and will be presenting again January 26.

Will the Commissioners and DPA commit NOW to being responsive to our communications regarding Black lives, and not let weeks go by without answering the community; will you demand SFPD complete ALL DOJ COPS measures; will you demand that SFPD report their data with per capita racial population numbers?

We need you to be accountable to the community and fulfill your role that you are there to do.

Thank you,
Jean Bridges