
Legislative Review: BOS File #220240 – Administrative Code - Community Policing Plans and Foot and Bike Patrols
Name: Mar
Date Introduced: 3/8/2022
Date Referred: 3/17/2022
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Land Use and Transportation Committee

Legislative Overview: This legislation would require SFPD to make Community Policing Plans for each district police station by Jan. 2023.

Existing law: There is currently no requirement for SFPD to create community policing plans in each district station.

In 2017 SFPD developed a city-wide Community Policing Strategic Plan in response to the Department of Justice Collaborative Reform Initiative findings which assesses SFPD policies and practices.

Amendments to Current Law

Proposed changes: This legislation would require SFPD to undergo a community input process to develop a Community Policing Plan at each district police station by January 1, 2023.

- Community policing strategies may include foot and bike patrols, addressing quality of life issues, crime reduction.
- Goals of the plan are to foster community engagement and positive interactions with SFPD, and improve service and respond in a timely manner.
- Each district station would need to ensure language access catered to the community needs
- SFPD would need to utilize a community input process including merchant groups, small businesses, neighborhood groups, etc.
- Each station's plan would need to be available to the community and updated each year.

Legislative Intent:

This legislation will enhance community involvement in the making and deployment of a community policing plan for SFPD in each district, with an emphasis on utilizing foot and bike patrols.

Background, Issues, and Considerations

- Who benefits from or will be burdened by this proposal (geographically, ethnically, linguistically)? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

This legislation could benefit small businesses in addressing public safety concerns through better communication with the district police station. By involving them in the planning process, they could identify ways in which they believe SFPD could be more useful. Foot and bike patrols could help improve street behavior and perceptions of safety. In 2017, a study of SFPD found that increase foot patrols led to a reduction in crime.¹

This legislation could burden communities of color by increasing the potential for police interactions. Black men are 2.5 times more likely and American Indian men are 1.2 -1.7 times more likely to be killed by police than white men.² At the same time, Black people are disproportionately the target of low-level arrests, so this could increase their interactions with the criminal justice system through fines, arrests, etc.³

Because this legislation requires police-district level plans, there are opportunities for SFPD to tailor plans to meet the specific needs of the surrounding community.

- What was the development process of this proposal? Whose input have you sought out? What feedback did you hear and did you incorporate it into this proposal? If not, why not?

This legislation reflects the ongoing feedback that the Supervisor heard from his district/community. In particular, it encourages SFPD to have a more proactive role in community safety.

- Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance?

This proposal doesn't explicitly focus on punitive measures, though that could be an outcome of enhanced foot/bike patrols. At the same time, greater police presence may serve as a deterrent/prevention strategy.

- Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?

This proposal specifically calls out the need for language access throughout the planning and development process, which would allow a greater diversity of voices to provide input into these plans. Because the plans are specific to police districts, they could be tailored to meet specific cultural norms.

¹ <https://www.capolicylab.org/sfpd-foot-patrols/>

² <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1821204116>

³ <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/04/20/988769793/when-you-add-more-police-to-a-city-what-happens>