

From: howard=cohensw.com@mg.gospringboard.io on behalf of [Howard Cohen](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Enact Comprehensive Policy to End Racially Biased Traffic Stops — SUP
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Dear Benedicto,

As a concerned San Francisco Bay Area resident, I urge you to end pretextual stops in San Francisco.

Daunte Wright, Willie McCoy, Cristian Cobian, and Philando Castile should all be alive today. Instead they were stopped by police for "driving while Black" and tragically killed by police during a pretext stop. Police used alleged traffic violations-- hanging an air freshener, sleeping in their car, driving with a broken taillight, and riding a bike without headlights – to conduct these deadly stops.

We must end racially biased pretext stops to prevent tragedies like these from happening in our city. I want all of my community members to feel safe in the city they call home. The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) should not be wasting time on traffic stops that do not improve public safety and harm community trust and cohesion.

San Francisco mirrors the state and nation in over-policing communities of color via pretextual stops. Since 2018, SFPD has stopped Black people at least six times the rate of white people, searched Black people at least 10 times the rate of white people, and were at least 12 times more likely to use force on Black people than white people.

Research shows that enforcing pretextual infractions has little demonstrable impact on reducing crime, has significant downsides in terms of the harassment and profiling of communities of color, and is a waste of taxpayer resources. Please adopt a comprehensive policy to prohibit these racially-biased traffic stops in San Francisco as soon as possible, and do not provide SFPD with easily used exceptions that will reduce the effectiveness of the much-needed policy change.

Sincerely,

Howard Cohen
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