



San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

SFCDMA

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November 17, 2022

San Francisco Police Commission
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the Police Commission and the citizens of San Francisco.

The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations (SFCDMA) has served to protect, preserve and promote small business merchant corridors in San Francisco for 73 years. We represent 34 local merchant associations, which in turn represent thousands of small business merchants and advocate for all small business merchants in every one of our neighborhood commercial districts.

We are writing today regarding the proposed SF Police Department General Order 9.01 as published on May 6, 2022. At the SFCDMA general meeting on November 15, 2022, our members voted by a wide margin to write this letter expressing our strong concerns as merchants and small business owners. We fear there will be unintended consequences to relinquishing SFPD's authority to enforce common laws. At the same time, SFCDMA unequivocally supports the eradication of racial bias in policing, which we understand is the intention behind this order. Several of our members spoke movingly in our discussions about personal experiences that highlight the importance of this work.

However, it was the firm opinion of a majority of our members that the increasing lawlessness we are experiencing in San Francisco's commercial corridors will only worsen if criminals learn they can freely enter San Francisco in a stolen vehicle, using stolen license plates (for example) because police are prohibited from making a traffic stop. In fact, it is our concern that portions of the order will serve to make San Francisco a magnet for crime in the region.

SFCDMA members are concerned, as San Franciscans, about the continuing devastation caused by systemic racism in our country. We are proud to do business in a progressive city where our leaders are unafraid to consider bold ideas for how to finally solve the most difficult societal issues we are faced with. We strive to strike a balance between partnering with SFPD in ensuring safety and quality of life in our neighborhoods, while holding leadership accountable when the department falls short. We appreciate your consideration of our views regarding General Order 9.01 and stand ready to participate in the commission's ongoing efforts to combat bias, while ensuring safety and security in San Francisco's vibrant commercial corridors.

Best Regards,

Masood Samereie, President
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

Janet Tarlov, Legislative Committee Chair