

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Youngblood, Stacy \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Protect our community! End biased police stops!
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 10:13:28 AM

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Dear Sergeant Stacy Youngblood,

I urge you to please approve a revision to DGO 9.01 regarding traffic enforcement and to end pretext stops in San Francisco. Police use alleged traffic violations - hanging an air freshener or tasbeeh, sleeping in their car, driving with a broken taillight, and riding a bike without headlights – to conduct these stops, oftentimes as an excuse to harass and search motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Studies have shown that pretext stops are biased and disparately impact people of color. Black San Franciscans make up less than five percent of San Francisco’s population but account for 26 percent of stops and 36 percent of searches.

Since 2018, San Francisco Police Department 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 was at least 12 times more likely to use force on Black people than white people.

Pretext stops have and continue to cause generational harm to the community and can lead to police misconduct and use of force – even death. Daunte Wright, Willie McCoy, Cristian Cobian, and Philando Castile were all tragically killed by police during a pretext stop.

Pretext stops do little to reduce crime; however, it increases the chance of interaction with law enforcement which can result in the use of force. Research shows that enforcing pretextual infractions 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,
Sameena Usman