



West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

PO Box 27112
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<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

December 10, 2022

Dear President Cindy Elias and fellow San Francisco Police Commissioners,

We would like to show our appreciation to Commissioner Kevin Benedicto for his presentation on October 24, 2022, to the West of Twin Peaks Central Council outlining the new proposed SF Police Department policy that limits enforcement of certain low-level pretextual violations.

After careful consideration and debate internally, the WTPCC is opposed to this proposal. Eliminating racial profiling is a critically important goal. However, we are concerned about the unintended consequences of limiting a police officer's ability to enforce our laws.

During the presentation, he outlined a list of low-level violations that under this new policy would be considered pretextual and thus barred from enforcement. Among these are littering, missing license plates, failing to signal a turn, and broken equipment, such as a headlight or taillight.

The WTPCC is opposed because we believe each of these laws are in place for one overarching reason: **Safety**. For example, cars with a seemingly innocuous broken taillight are unable to signal properly which can lead to an accident. We feel strongly that SF Police Officers should remain empowered to enforce laws that promote **safety**.

We are concerned about the implied non-enforcement message this new policy could send to motorists, and the ensuing hazards. The laws in place promote **safety**, and we feel should be enforced absolutely equally, and regardless of a driver's perceived potential for larger violations. In addition, we feel this policy is in direct conflict with the SFMTA's Vision Zero Initiative, which encourages safe behaviors and traffic enforcement to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries by 2024.

Safety and overall quality-of-life issues are a top concern among for the neighborhoods that we represent, and we feel that enforcing low-level violations prevents accidents. We urge you and the entire Police Commission to withdraw your proposal. Thank you in advance for considering the position of WTPCC.

Sincerely,

West of Twin Peaks Central Council, representing: Forest Knolls, Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association, Ingleside Terraces, Midtown Terrace, Miraloma Park, Mount Davidson Manor, Pine Lake Park, Sherwood Forest, Twin Peaks, Westwood Highlands and Westwood Park.

CC:

Police Commission
Mayor London Breed

Supervisor Myrna Melgar
SFPD Chief Bill Scott