

From: [Maryann Rainey](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#); [Elias, Cindy \(POL\)](#); [Carter-Oberstone, Max \(POL\)](#); [Yee, Lawrence \(POL\)](#); [Byrne, Jim \(POL\)](#); [Yanez, Jesus \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Allow SFPD to Enforce Traffic Safety Laws!
Date: Saturday, December 31, 2022 7:36:53 AM

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Dear SF Police Commission., I am writing to urge you to not prohibit SFPD from enforcing existing traffic safety laws (agenda item 11 on your 12/14 meeting). These traffic safety laws exist for a reason - to keep our families, seniors, and streets safe. By prohibiting police officers from enforcing the law, you are prohibiting them from keeping our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Maryann Rainey

1318 4th Ave

San Francisco, CA 94122

From: [Raffi Kandy](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#); [Elias, Cindy \(POL\)](#); [Carter-Oberstone, Max \(POL\)](#); [Yee, Lawrence \(POL\)](#); [Byrne, Jim \(POL\)](#); [Yanez, Jesus \(POL\)](#); [Benedicto, Kevin \(POL\)](#); [Walker, Debra \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Allow SFPD to Enforce Traffic Safety Laws!
Date: Sunday, January 1, 2023 9:23:51 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Police Commission.

I am writing to urge you to **NOT** prohibit SFPD from enforcing existing traffic safety laws (agenda item 11 on your 12/14 meeting). These traffic safety laws exist for a reason - to keep our families, seniors, and streets safe. By prohibiting police officers from enforcing the law, you are prohibiting them from keeping our communities safe.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE INITIATIVE
3030B 16th Street
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
Phone (415) 824-1424
Fax (415) 863-1382

January 4, 2023

The Honorable Cindy Elias
President, Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158
sfpd.commission@sfgov.org

Re: DGO 9.07 — End Pretext Stops — SUPPORT

Dear President Elias and Commissioners,

Community Resource Initiative (CRI) writes in strong support of Department General Order (DGO) 9.07, and respectfully requests your AYE vote on the proposed policy. Currently under submission, DGO 9.07 would update the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) traffic enforcement policy to limit the use of pretext stops, prohibit consent searches during traffic stops, and improve traffic stop data collection and reporting requirements.

CRI, based in the Mission, is a nonprofit community resource center that builds narratives to challenge disparate criminal sentencing, such as the death penalty, and to advocate for the value of human life. We collaborate with families and communities impacted by the justice system to facilitate safety, growth, and resilience. We hear from our clients that traffic stops are extremely traumatic. These interactions can lead into cycles of incarceration that exacerbate underlying mental health conditions when folks need support and healing.

Traffic stops are the most common source of all police-citizen interactions, and the extent and nature of racial disparities in San Francisco's traffic stops are substantial, egregious, and unjustified. Rigorous evaluation, including recent SPUR analysis that was presented to the Police Commission on December 14, 2022, proves there are sustained and troubling disparities in how SFPD interacts with people they stop depending on their race. Furthermore, the searches that often result from these stops have extremely low yield rates for "contraband" and are essentially a waste of resources. People face starkly different experiences when interacting with SFPD based on the color of their skin, and it is up to the Police Commission to take immediate steps and enact policy changes to remedy racially-based policing.

Pretext stops are a poor investigative tool and instead generate anger and alienation among Black and Brown communities. The mistrust generated is particularly acute within the demographic communities that receive extra police scrutiny, and we cannot look at the evidence and continue to discount complaints in communities of color about different standards for police encounters, nor can we ignore the collateral and sometimes deadly consequences. Pretext stops are applied unevenly across racial lines, Black and Brown San Franciscans are clearly targeted for more aggressive treatment, these differences are not justified by differences in criminality, and communities of color have paid a tremendous social cost.

Despite training and attempts to shift the culture of SFPD, the data undeniably demonstrates that San Francisco does not understand how to balance public safety needs with respect and equity for all its residents — the stops that would end under this policy account for as many as 10,000 unnecessary traffic stops in San Francisco a year.

For victims of racially biased policing, it can be humiliating, life altering, and dangerous — these kinds of stops can lead to use of force and police misconduct, impose a severe burden on those least able to bear it, and undermine and erode the relationship between the public and the police. The need for reform is reinforced by the June 2022 University of California San Francisco report that found that San Francisco ranks the worst in the state for police-caused hospitalization rates for Black residents.

In their 2022 annual report, the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, a California-wide committee of legal experts, states, “pretext stops are ripe for racial profiling,” have “disturbing racial disparities,” and recommends, “prohibit[ing] police officers from stopping people for technical, non-safety-related traffic offenses.” This form of structural racism can be addressed via policy change without decreasing public safety. Pretext stops, and the resulting detentions, questioning, arrests, court appearances, and incarceration merit concern, and DGO 9.07 represents a meaningful solution to the disparate outcomes. Regardless of the underlying causes or circumstances of these patterns in policing — be it explicit or implicit bias — ending pretext stops is feasible and has been proven to be effective at reducing attendant harms and with no adverse consequences.

From the beginning, this proposal has always been about the health and well-being of our entire San Francisco community. This DGO is specifically focused on eliminating those stops that present no public safety risk and brings SFPD’s traffic enforcement policy into alignment with widely established best practices. Reducing pretext stops does not increase public danger and demonstrates San Francisco’s ability to make the data-informed decision to join the other jurisdictions across the country that have already implemented similar effective policies.

Failure to pass and implement this DGO in a timely manner would send an incredibly damaging message that San Francisco does not view communities of color as full members of society, that they are not to expect equal treatment, and that the most visible government agents they are likely to encounter — the police — view them as dangerous threats. We cannot afford to continue down a path that allows Black and Brown lives to be dominated by counterproductive and unjustifiable widespread domains of criminality. As such, we respectfully request that you give credence to those members of our community who are disparately harmed by racially biased policing and act accordingly. On behalf of Community Resource Initiative, please unanimously pass DGO 9.07 and end pretext stops in San Francisco. For questions about our position, please contact me at anthony@cr-i.org.

Sincerely,



Anthony Ginez, Executive Director
Community Resource Initiative

Cc: San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

From: [Natalya Bomani](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: DGO 9.07 — End Pretext Stops — SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:55:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

January 4th, 2023
The Honorable Cindy Elias
President, Police Commission Office
San Francisco Police Headquarters
1245 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear President Elias and Commissioners,

San Francisco Rising writes in strong support of Department General Order (DGO) 9.07, and respectfully requests your AYE vote on the proposed policy. Currently under submission, DGO 9.07 would update the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) traffic enforcement policy to limit the use of pretext stops, prohibit consent searches during traffic stops, and improve traffic stop data collection and reporting requirements.

San Francisco Rising (SFR) is a multi-racial alliance representing San Francisco's Chinese, Black, Latinx, and Filipino communities, which are also the communities of color most likely to be impacted by the criminal legal system. As communities of color united to create systemic change, we believe that solutions created and led by the most disproportionately impacted, especially Black and Latinx residents, will be the solutions that can provide long-term positive change.

Traffic stops are the most common source of all police-citizen interactions, and the extent and nature of racial disparities in San Francisco's traffic stops are substantial, egregious, and unjustified. Rigorous evaluation, including recent SPUR analysis that was presented to the Police Commission on December 14, 2022, proves there are sustained and troubling disparities in how SFPD interacts with people they stop depending on their race. Furthermore, the searches that often result from these stops have extremely low yield rates for "contraband" and are essentially a waste of resources. People face starkly different experiences when interacting with SFPD based on the color of their skin, and it is up to the Police Commission to take immediate steps and enact policy changes to remedy racially-based policing.

Pretext stops are a poor investigative tool and instead generate anger and alienation among Black and Brown communities. The mistrust generated is particularly acute within the demographic communities that receive extra police scrutiny, and we cannot look at the evidence and continue to discount complaints in communities of

color about different standards for police encounters, nor can we ignore the collateral and sometimes deadly consequences. Pretext stops are applied unevenly across racial lines, Black and Brown San Franciscans are clearly targeted for more aggressive treatment, these differences are not justified by differences in criminality, and communities of color have paid a tremendous social cost.

Despite training and attempts to shift the culture of SFPD, the data undeniably demonstrates that San Francisco does not understand how to balance public safety needs with respect and equity for all its residents — the stops that would end under this policy account for as many as 10,000 unnecessary traffic stops in San Francisco a year. For victims of racially biased policing, it can be humiliating, life altering, and dangerous — these kinds of stops can lead to use of force and police misconduct, impose a severe burden on those least able to bear it, and undermine and erode the relationship between the public and the police. The need for reform is reinforced by the June 2022 University of California San Francisco report that found that San Francisco ranks the worst in the state for police-caused hospitalization rates for Black residents.

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position, please contact me at nat.bomani@sanfranciscorising.org.

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Take care,

Natalya Bomani

she/they

Criminal Justice & Student Organizer

San Francisco Rising & San Francisco Rising Action Fund

sfrising.org [FB](#) | [IG](#) | [TW](#)

sfrisingaction.org [FB](#) | [IG](#) | [TW](#)

A guest on the traditional and ancestral lands of [the Ramaytush Ohlone People](#). Pay land taxes [here](#)

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.” -Angela Davis

From: [Kaylah May](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Protect our community! End biased police stops!
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 3:36:20 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Police Commission,

PLEASE! End Pretext Stops! I urge you to please approve a revision to DGO 9.01 regarding traffic enforcement and to end biased 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.

Biased 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.

Biased 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,
Kaylah May

From: [Lauren Chinn](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Protect our community! End biased police stops!
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 8:59:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Police Commission,

My name is Lauren Chinn, and I live in Chinatown in District 3.

I urge you to please approve a revision to DGO 9.01 regarding traffic enforcement and to end biased 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.

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Sincerely,
Lauren Chinn

From: [Calder Lorenz](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: DGO 9.07 — End Pretext Stops — SUPPORT (Organizational Letter Attached)
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 10:26:58 AM
Attachments: [End Pretext Stops SUPPORT Gubbio 2023.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President Elias and Commissioners, Chief Scott, and Executive Director Henderson,

My name is Calder Lorenz, I live in the Mission District, and I am the Director of Operations for The Gubbio Project. I write to respectfully request that you adopt a comprehensive policy to prohibit racially-biased traffic stops in San Francisco. With appreciation and consideration, we have attached our letter of support to end pretext stops for the upcoming hearing.

Racial disparities have not changed in traffic stops and it is time for creative policy solutions that do not reinforce the status quo. 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.

The Police Commission should adopt a cutting-edge policy that is focused on public safety, not fishing expeditions. Racial profiling and the generational harms caused by biased policing must be aggressively addressed. 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. People who are impacted by pretextual stops and biased policing support you and a strong policy.

In Community,

Calder

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Calder Lorenz (he/him), *Harm Reduction Saves Lives, I carry naloxone!*
Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project
(415)-571-6391 cell phone
calder@thegubbioproject.org
thegubbioproject.org