

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 5



City and County of San Francisco

DEAN PRESTON

July 11, 2023  
Honorable Cindy Elias & Members  
San Francisco Police Commission  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Request for inquiry into police response during Dolores Park skating event**

Dear President Elias, Vice President Carter-Oberstone, and Honorable Members of the Police Commission:

I am writing to formally request that the Police Commission look into the police response during the July 8, 2023, skateboarding event at Dolores Park– documented by [Mission Local](#) and various local residents at the scene– to determine what happened during the hours-long incident, who ordered it, why these tactics were deployed against youth, and whether the San Francisco Police Department’s conduct complied with policies regarding the treatment of our kids.

My office has heard from various District 5 constituents and city residents regarding troubling behavior by police, including police “kettling” attendees and passersby of the event, leading to their detention and/or arrest. In addition, we heard accounts of police pointing weapons at youth, threatening to tear gas them, and threatening youth on opposing sides of police barricades with batons. Similarly concerning, we heard from multiple sources that the children who were arrested by police were kept in degrading conditions without access to food, water, a restroom, or warmth, leading to some children soiling themselves. Various videos posted on social media and accounts by reporters on the scene appear to support some of these claims.

I urge the Police Commission to exercise its oversight authority regarding this incident, especially in light of Public Defender [Mano Raju](#)’s recent statement, which raises serious questions about whether these children’s legal rights were violated. My staff and I are happy to assist the Police Commission in any way necessary upon your request. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Preston".

Dean Preston  
District 5 Supervisor

CC: William Scott, Chief of Police, San Francisco Police Department  
Paul Henderson, Director, Department of Police Accountability  
Mano Raju, San Francisco Public Defender