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U.S. Department of Justice Collaborative Review Initiative

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) created the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (CRI) to provide law enforcement agencies with a proactive, non-adversarial approach to address significant police-related issues. Several agencies across the country including Las Vegas Metropolitan, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Spokane, St. Louis County, and Philadelphia Police Departments, have participated in this process. Information and reports relating to these agencies can be found at: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2807>.

The purpose of the initiative is to improve trust between police agencies and the communities they serve. The process is a long-term, strategic approach that identifies issues within an agency that may be affecting public trust and offers recommendations based on a comprehensive assessment on how to resolve those issues. Agencies selected to participate must demonstrate a commitment to address the recommendations and undertake significant reform efforts.


With a commitment to community policing, three years ago, I asked the DOJ to consider San Francisco as a participating agency. At that time, the DOJ was tasked with several other reviews of agencies which were in the middle of critical community controversies. In late-December 2015, our request was accepted.

This week, Command Staff met with members of the CRI team to begin this comprehensive review of the San Francisco Police Department. The team will seek input from Department members, as well as the community, to incorporate suggestions and viable solutions into the recommendations.

In the coming weeks, I will be visiting all district stations and specialized units to provide a more detailed description of the review process and to answer questions that may arise. In order to coordinate our efforts throughout this major project and to be responsive to the requests of the CRI team, the Department has created the Professional Standards and Principled Policing Bureau. In addition, the CRI team has set up an email account, sanfrancisco.crita@usdoj.gov, for the public. Department members can email the CRI team directly at nasmia.comrie@usdoj.gov with questions, express concerns, or provide suggestions.

The Department is committed to and will fully cooperate with this initiative. I truly believe this will make us a better police department.

Per DB 15-141, both sworn and non-sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge this Department Bulletin in HRMS.


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police