

City and County of San Francisco  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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Sheryl Evans Davis  
Executive Director

Mark Farrell  
Mayor

April 9, 2018

San Francisco Police Department Headquarters  
San Francisco Police Commission Office  
1245 3rd Street San Francisco, CA 94158

**Re: Department General Order 2.04**

Dear President Turman and Commissioners:


I am writing to express support for revising Department General Order (DGO) 2.04 to state that "A complaint referred from a non-law enforcement agency (e.g., Office of the Public Defender, Office of Civil Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, or Department of Public Works) against a member of the SFPD shall be investigated by DPA." The proposed revision would allow the DPA to investigate government agency complaints in addition to individual complaints, while not restricting SFPD from conducting its own investigation of complaints lodged by a government agency. The proposed revision is consistent with DPA's responsibility as an independent civilian oversight agency tasked with investigating complaints of police misconduct.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) works under the Mayor's office to provide leadership and advocacy on human rights and social justice issues in San Francisco. The HRC enforces the City's non-discrimination laws and works closely with minority groups to build trust with law enforcement agencies. The HRC's partnerships in this area include convening young people and police officers to advance police reform; working with transgender communities and law enforcement to change arrest, search and detention policies; partnering with sex workers and police to increase public safety; and engaging Latinx communities on civil rights issues.

These community partnerships, among others, inform my support for revising DGO 2.04. The proposed revision to expand DPA jurisdiction to include agency complaints will reinforce the Department's authority as an oversight agency at a time of waning public confidence in law enforcement's ability to investigate itself. It will build trust and bring into alignment police complaint functions. Most importantly, however, it will increase accountability and transparency at a time of significant tension between law enforcement and members of the public.

I hope that the Police Commission will consider this input and support the proposed revision to DGO 2.04.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Sheryl Davis  
Executive Director

San Francisco Human Rights Commission