



# **Fixin' San Mateo County/ *Coalition for a Safer SMC***

**Midcoast Community Council  
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# Goal - Community Voice

- Independent review of Sheriff policies and practices
  - Two way communication and dialogue between community and Sheriff
  - Address resident complaints, investigate issues, and make policy and practice recommendations
  - Support Sheriff deputies and their mission to protect and serve
  - Public safety for all
  - Oversight budget should not reduce Sheriff budget



# Common Sense

- Checks and balances
- Good government
- Fiscally responsible
- Transparency
- Accountability

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# Coalition for a Safer SMC

- FxSMC nonprofit founded by local residents in 2021
- Brought together Coalition - 33 local organizations
- Oversight endorsed by HMB, EPA, RWC, SM, PV City/Town Councils & NFO Community Council
  - representing  $\frac{1}{3}$  of county residents
- Endorsed by Reps Eshoo, Speier, and Mullin, Sen Becker, 13 Mayors/ former Mayors, other elected and appointed community leaders

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# People of Color Are At Risk

- Black people 9x more likely than White people to be arrested in San Mateo County
- Hispanic people 2x likely than White people to be arrested
- In 5-county Bay Area, Black people are <7% of our population but 27% of people killed by police, 2015-2020



# Civilian Oversight Is Common

- 250 cities and counties nationally have civilian oversight
- 25 cities/counties are in California including these counties:

Los Angeles	San Francisco
Sacramento	Santa Clara
San Diego	Sonoma
Santa Cruz	Orange

*State law AB1185 gives subpoena power to boards & inspectors general but does not create these boards/offices*

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# What Community Voice Looks Like

- Civilian Oversight Board (community members)
- Inspector General (Attorney)
- Both appointed by Board of Supervisors
- Both have subpoena power
- Both review and recommend policies/make public reports
- Both in 2-way dialogue with Sheriff

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# Oversight Board

- 11 community members - impartial, knowledgeable, committed; diverse geographically and life experience
- Monthly public meetings
- Community outreach/listening
- Receive complaints





# Inspector General

- Attorney with criminal law experience
- Investigate complaints from residents
- Investigate incidents of force including:
  - excessive force
  - deaths in custody
  - racial profiling trends

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# Must Haves

- Independent from Sheriff
- Strong subpoena power
- Oversight board membership reflects the diversity of the community
- Consistent support from Board of Supervisors
- Adequate funding
- Ability to take complaints directly from residents
- Access to data and records



# Oversight - necessary but limited

<b>CAN PROVIDE</b>	<b>CANNOT PROVIDE</b>
Create transparency and accountability through public reports to Supervisors and Sheriff	Set Sheriff or Board of Supervisor policy or discipline/fire deputies



# Where Are We Now?

- County is doing community outreach
- Board of Supervisors study session expected in October
- Supervisors vote by end of 2023
- Implementation 2024-2025

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