

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

Revised 07/09/20

[Charter Amendment - Police Department Staffing Levels]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to remove the minimum police staffing requirement, to require the Police Department to submit a report and recommendation regarding police staffing levels to the Police Commission every two years, and to require the Police Commission to consider the report and recommendation when approving the department's proposed budget.

Existing Law

Under the Charter, the San Francisco Police Department must maintain at least 1,971 full duty sworn officers. The Charter also requires the City to maintain the number of sworn officers dedicated to neighborhood policing and patrol at least at the level in fiscal year 1993-1994, and to dedicate new sworn officers to neighborhood community policing, patrol and investigations.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed measure would amend the Charter to require the Chief of Police to transmit to the Police Commission a report describing the department's current number of full-duty sworn officers and recommending staffing levels of full-duty sworn officers. The report will include an assessment of the Police Department's overall staffing, the workload handled by the department's employees, the department's public service objectives, the department's legal duties, and other information the Chief of Police deems relevant to determining proper staffing levels of full-duty sworn officers. The measure would require the Police Commission to adopt a policy at least once every two years setting the methodologies for the Chief of Police to use in evaluating staffing levels.

The Charter would require the Police Commission to hold a public hearing on the staffing report. The Police Commission would be required to consider the staffing report in its consideration and approval of the Police Department's proposed budget every fiscal year, but the Commission would not be required to accept or adopt any of the recommendations in the report.

The measure would also remove the requirements for the City to maintain the number of sworn officers dedicated to neighborhood policing and patrol at least at the level in fiscal year 1993-1994, and to dedicate new sworn officers to neighborhood community policing, patrol and investigations.

n:\legana\as2020\2000501\01460633.docx