



# SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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January 11, 2018

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Independent Police Auditor Study Session – January 16, 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

The San Jose Police Officers' Association is looking forward to your scheduled study session and discussion around the appropriate role of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA). It is important to remember that any policy formulated after this study session should be founded upon facts, data, and experiences generated from the City of San Jose. All too often in discussions surrounding police and community relations incidents or data from other parts of the country are utilized to point to problems that do not exist here in San Jose.

The current IPA, prior to measuring for new curtains in his office, has been clamoring for expanded power to oversee a solution in search of a problem. The recent public release of use of force data clearly shows that we have no crisis here in San Jose that would necessitate a wholesale change in how police officers are investigated for alleged wrongdoing. We are opposed to a "one size fits all" accountability model that is being peddled by some.

In fact, the data contained in the Scales use of force report validates that there is no disparate use of force amongst any particular segment of our population and certainly not against our residents of color. Although this information does not fit what many want to believe, the data speaks for itself; San Jose police officers target behavior, not skin color.

We support an honest and robust dialogue based upon the circumstances in San Jose, not what has occurred in other parts of our country. We believe the current system in place, including the use of force public portal, provides adequate transparency and the appropriate level of accountability the public demands of the SJPD.

Sincerely,

Paul Kelly, President  
San Jose Police Officers' Association