



Independent Civilian Oversight of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

PROPOSED MODEL, MAY 2023

PURPOSE

To establish independent civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Office as authorized by California Law (Assembly Bill 1185), with a **CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD (COB)** and an **OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)**.

OVERVIEW

Boards of supervisors are required to supervise the official conduct of all county officers. AB 1185 authorizes boards of supervisors to establish a Civilian Oversight Board and Office of the Inspector General, both with the power to issue subpoenas. Civilian oversight promotes good government and fiscal responsibility, increases law enforcement transparency and accountability, supports effective and lawful policing and corrections, facilitates impartial administrative investigations, and helps the supervisors meet their responsibilities without impeding the Sheriff's criminal investigative functions. Oversight can make recommendations, but does not interfere with the Sheriff's discretion to set policy or discipline personnel.

Civilian Oversight Board

APPOINTMENT

The COB will consist of 11 county residents, including a chair, appointed by the Board of Supervisors — two from each supervisorial district and one at large. Members will represent the diversity of people and perspectives in the county, and will not include current law enforcement personnel.

DUTIES

Conduct outreach regarding the Sheriff's Office patrol and jail operations, hold public meetings and receive input from the community, provide feedback to the Sheriff's Office and/or the Board of Supervisors, and prepare and submit public reports and recommendations.

BUDGET

Effective oversight requires a dedicated and adequate funding stream. We recommend the combined annual budget of the COB/OIG be set at a minimum of 1% of the total annual budget of the Sheriff's Office, but not reduce the Sheriff's Office budget.

Office of the Inspector General

APPOINTMENT

The Board of Supervisors will hire an Inspector General with investigatory and criminal law experience, and who will hire staff to assist with investigations.

DUTIES

Receive and review complaints against the Sheriff's Office, investigate incidents such as uses of force, deaths in custody, and allegations of misconduct, monitor the Sheriff's Office's patrol and jail operations, analyze racial profiling data and trends, make recommendations on policies and practices, and review the adequacy of Sheriff's Office investigations. Alleged criminal misconduct will be referred to the District Attorney.

Submitted by: Fixin' San Mateo County and community supporters.