

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#); [Youngblood, Stacy \(POL\)](#)
Subject: I oppose the revised draft of the General Traffic Enforcement Order!
Date: Saturday, December 10, 2022 9:35:47 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Message to the Police Commission

From your constituent Valerie Makarovsky

Email [REDACTED]

I am a resident of District 7

I oppose the revised draft of the General Traffic Enforcement Order!

Message to the Police Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I write to oppose the December 14 revised draft of General Traffic Enforcement Order 9.01 that, with some exceptions, would largely prohibit SFPD from citing or detaining anyone in connection with at least nine vehicle code infractions.

While we strongly support eliminating racial bias in traffic stops, this is the wrong way to do it because it is dangerous to public safety. (Bias in traffic enforcement is already contrary to law and the Constitution). Any remnants should be addressed by other means, including officer training and accountability, not by ordering SFPD to abandon altogether the enforcement of duly enacted California traffic laws or city ordinances. This will result in the following negative effects:

* Increased traffic accidents: Traffic deaths skyrocketed nationwide last year. In San Francisco, at the current rate there will be 31 pedestrian traffic deaths this calendar year even though the professed city goal is Zero deaths, with the elderly, Blacks, and the homeless disproportionately killed. It is common knowledge that traffic enforcement in San Francisco is already lacking due to the shortage of police officers and Police Commission inattention. This policy only adds to the crisis on our roads, including essentially legalizing turns and lane changes without

signaling, and other critical infractions that cause accidents.

* More shootings. There is an epidemic in gun violence - an increase of over 70% shootings in San Francisco from 2019. How are police supposed to reduce shootings if the Police Commission makes it even more difficult to spot illegal guns in vehicles?

* More crime. Small traffic crimes are often just the tip of the iceberg - criminals convicted for serious and violent crimes are often arrested after a traffic stop, as are those violating the terms of their probation or parole. This order only makes the streets more dangerous.

* More road rage and pedestrian injuries. One particularly ridiculous provision would allow anyone to walk (or bike, scooter or use a vehicle moving by human power) down the middle of the street or sidewalk slowly and block traffic without fear of being detained, even on highly trafficked roads with dozens of vehicles backed up. The same provision would allow bicycles to speed down sidewalks regardless of the danger to pedestrians.

Some Commissioners claim this traffic order will make us safer by forcing officers to attend to serious crimes instead. Don't take this argument seriously. In fact, it creates additional reporting requirements and thus reduces police availability. And it goes against the proven effectiveness of "broken windows" policing.

What would make us safer: the Commission's advocacy for and implementation of full staffing of SFPD by adding the 500 officers that San Francisco is short. Instead, this proposed traffic order will surely impede morale and make police hiring and retention more difficult.

Please reject this proposal.
