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To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Subject: Leaking of Confidential Investigation Information
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SFPD Police Commission
Leaking of information

October 4, 2023

Police Commission
San Francisco Police Department Headquarters
1245 3rd Street
6th floor
San Francisco, CA 94158

Dear Commissioners,

I write to express our concerns regarding the apparent leak of confidential information regarding a San Francisco Police Officer ultimately published by the San Francisco Standard (The Standard) in a news article on traffic stops. The information published by The Standard included materials from confidential personnel investigations as well as an image of a confidential report.

Disclosure of this information likely violates state law. Since The Standard published its article, information has been shared that calls into question how the Standard received its potentially illegal information. The Police Commission, as well as the leadership of the Department of Police Accountability (DPA), both know this information is required to be protected. Yet, we have not heard a word of worry from the Commission or DPA regarding the information's release. Nothing. This is unacceptable.

Rather than taking steps to protect the employees you are ultimately responsible for, some of you took to Twitter. At least one Commissioner panicked when questions were raised about whether the leak could have come from the Police Commission or DPA. Seeking to protect himself, Commissioner Carter-Oberstone immediately took to Twitter/X to passionately proclaim his innocence tweet after tweet. While it was an impressive "CYA" performance, he did not express concern or even curiosity about how the confidential information was

released. This is odd, given that it's ultimately his job to keep information confidential.

The Commission needs to take action and responsibility to find out how the information was released. If that means some of you must answer questions in an investigation, so be it. Welcome to the SFPD and one of the most scrutinized professions on the globe. No one should be above an investigation. How the Commission handles this issue will directly affect the little trust our members have in the Commission.

If, after a thorough, objective investigation, it turns out that the release of information was due to plain incompetence instead of sinister agenda-pushing, who cares? We would know what to fix, which is one of the main reasons to investigate.

If complying with the law and protecting your employees does not compel you to act, consider the potential impacts down the line. What if the information led to identified undercover officers or cooperating witnesses?

All one needs to do is examine what occurred at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) earlier this year when a Department employee released the personal information of hundreds of officers involved in undercover or sensitive investigations—and ask yourself, do you want to be responsible for that?

Please find out how this happened. Fix it from happening again. And hold those responsible accountable. That's how the San Francisco Police Department should operate—especially at the top.

Tracy McCray
President