



Memorandum

**To: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

From: Councilmember Chappie Jones

**Subject: INDEPENDENT POLICE
AUDITOR AUTHORITY**

Date: May 24, 2018

Approved:

RECOMMENDATION

That the Rules and Open Government Committee forward the following recommendations to the City Council for consideration:

1. Direct staff to initiate Seal Beach Meet and Confer negotiations with the appropriate bargaining unit and return to Council with an ordinance to give the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) the authority to review the Police Department's Department Initiated Investigations (DII) and Officer Involved Shootings (OIS)
2. Direct staff to return to Council with an analysis to provide the IPA the ability to review the Police Department's Patterns and Practices in relations to use of force, stops, detentions, and arrests. The IPA would be limited to reviewing the data at an aggregate level and not individual cases.

BACKGROUND

We live in an environment where the public trust in our institutions like the government in general, the media, and law enforcement have eroded. For some segments of the community, the police are viewed with suspicion. Although the SJPD is not in a state of crisis like other police departments in the country, a need still exists to establish and strengthen the trust between the community and the police.

It cannot be stated enough what an outstanding job Chief Eddie Garcia has done to develop strong relationships with key stakeholders in the community, POA, and City Council. Chief Garcia has initiated several strategies that improved police transparency, accountability, and trust. Now is the time to build on what the Chief has accomplished by giving the IPA the additional tools to further build community trust with the police and provide a higher level of transparency and accountability. After several meetings with the Police Chief, POA leadership, and community organizations such as PACT, I have identified two areas of potential consensus, review of DIIs and OISs, and one area for additional examination, review of patterns and practices at an aggregate level.

I believe that it is possible to enact these changes to the role of the IPA without a change to the City Charter. By enacting these changes through ordinance, we would forgo the costs of an election, and also be able to make the changes more quickly.

I would like to thank PACT and other members of the community, the Chief, and the POA for their willingness to engage in dialogue and look for common ground. If we take these steps together, San Jose will continue to lay the foundation for trust, respect, and accountability between our residents and the police.