

The Honorable London Breed, President  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Oppose SFPD 2016 Budget Hold Proposal (Avalos)

Dear Supervisor Breed:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and The San Francisco Travel Association are opposed to Supervisor Avalos's proposal to place up to \$20 million of the Police Department's budget on hold as part of this year's budget approval process. If this proposal is approved, it would significantly undermine the safety of residents, workers and visitors in the City.

In order to deal with this funding shortfall, the SFPD would have to cancel academy classes, reduce overtime and potentially furlough all current police academy recruits indefinitely. The operational impacts of these actions would be the following:

1. **Failure to meet Charter-mandated police staff levels:** After a concerted effort, the City is on the verge of finally achieving the Charter-mandated police staffing level of 1,971 sworn personnel. If this proposal is approved, the City would once again fall short of achieving this voter-mandated police staffing level.
2. **Reduction in Foot Patrols:** Representatives of the neighborhood, business and civic community have long advocated for the deployment of more foot patrol officers to respond and deter crime and to make streets safer. The SFPD has recently expanded deployment of foot patrols in neighborhoods throughout the City – including downtown and neighborhood commercial areas. This proposal would force the SFPD to reduce foot patrols just as they are getting started and are making a positive impact.
3. **Diminished Major Event Safety:** Given recent world events, we are also extremely concerned that this proposal will likely force the SFPD to significantly reduce staffing levels assigned to protect public safety at major events or actually increase staffing cost through greater use of overtime.

At a time when we see reports of increasing property and personal crime rates, we believe this is a step in the wrong direction.

For these reasons, we encourage you to support maintaining full funding for the SFPD by opposing this effort to place FY 2016-17 SFPD funding on hold. While we understand the importance of ensuring our police receive the highest level of diversity and de-escalation training possible, we believe reducing the police budget not only runs counter to this goal but also places the safety of our residents, workers and visitors at risk.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jim Lazarus  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Gwyneth Borden  
Executive Director  
Golden Gate Restaurant Association

Joe D'Alessandro  
President and CEO  
San Francisco Travel Association

Kevin Carroll  
Executive Director  
Hotel Council of San Francisco

Troy Campbell  
Executive Director  
Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefits District

cc: Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Mayor Ed Lee; Police Chief Toney Chaplin