



SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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November 15, 2017

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Commissioner Petra DeJesus  
San Francisco Police Commission  
1245 3rd Street  
San Francisco, CA 94158

Commissioner DeJesus:

As you know, on Friday, November 3, 2017, the San Francisco Police Commission voted, 4 to 3, to approve equipping San Francisco police officers with Electronic Control Devices (ECD) commonly known as Tasers. The SFPOA realizes that you have long been an opponent of less lethal options, such as Tasers, for the SFPD. Whether voting to remove the Carotid Restraint from our use of force continuum, or previously denying less lethal options, you have consistently and dogmatically voted to deny officers on the street sensible force options to protect themselves and the public. Your policy decisions have forced officers to use lethal force because you have failed to provide them with alternatives.

That same day, you were interviewed by KTVU 2. Your anti-law enforcement biases were on full display. You stated, using Tasers is the lazy cops' way of getting someone to do something. Oh, if you don't move quickly enough, I'll tase you. If you don't get out of the car, I'll tase you. It's a hands on job. They can use other things."

You have an important position in our community to make such ill-informed and juvenile remarks. You embarrassed not only your colleagues on the Commission but all of the hard-working officers on our streets who are trying to make a difference in people's lives. You seem to think law enforcement is a game. It's not. Go to a midnight watch line-up at Bayview Station or any other station for that matter and explain to them why you think using ECD's is a lazy option.


You are one of the longest-serving San Francisco Police Commissioners. You know the true facts about use of force by SFPD officers. We do not abuse our authority. We fall far below the national average on use of force, based on an agency our size and the number of calls for service we handle.

You should either apologize to the men and women of SFPD or have the courage to tell them to their face that you believe they are lazy. You had plenty of time to make your

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calculated remarks. In contrast, the cops are often forced into impossible situations with nothing more than a split second to make a use of force decisions.

Plainly, the cops will never have your support. But if you are going to remain as a Commissioner, you should at least try to gain an understanding of what they do.



Martin Halloran  
SFPOA President