

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT BOARD

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Friday, September 4, 2026 – 2:00 PM

San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Regular Meeting

WILLIAM PALMER II, PRESIDENT • ESTELA ORTIZ, VICE PRESIDENT
CARLA CUEVAS • SCOTT DIGNAN • DIANE LOZANO • GALE ROSBORO • JULIE D. SOO
DAN LEUNG, BOARD SECRETARY

Members Present: Carla Cuevas, Scott Dignan, Diane Lozano, Estela Ortiz, William Palmer, Gale Rosboro, and Julie D. Soo

The Sheriff's Oversight Board of the City and County of San Francisco met in regular session on Friday, September 4, 2026, with President William Palmer, II presiding.

President Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the call of the roll. Board Members Cuevas, Dignan, Lozano, Ortiz, Palmer, Rosboro, and Soo were noted present.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Dan Leung, Board Secretary presented the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

Board Secretary Leung further thanked SFGovTV for recording and televising the meeting on Cable Channel 26, gave special thanks to James Kawana for moderating public comment, and welcomed members of the public to attend board meetings and provide public comment in-person, by email at sdob@sfgov.org, or by US Postal mail addressed to the Office of the Inspector General, 1 South Van Ness Ave, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103; and noted that in person comment was limited to 2 minutes with General Public Comment taken at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The August 7, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes were presented for approval as distributed, with no discussion or requests for corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Member Soo, seconded by Member Cuevas, moved to approve the August 7, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. The motion carried the following vote:

In favor: Cuevas, Dignan, Lozano, Ortiz, Rosboro, Soo

Opposed: Palmer

APPROVED.

SAN FRANCISCO JAIL SURVEY 2026 PROJECT PRESENTATION

Marshall Khine, Chief of Staff at the Department of Police Accountability (DPA), delivered a presentation on the finalized results and key findings of the 2026 San Francisco Jail Survey Report.

After the presentation, the board opened the floor for discussion and questions. Members Soo, Ortiz, Lozano, and Palmer asked clarifying questions and provided feedback regarding the findings, the survey methodology, and the long-term tracking of local jail conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh, Co-Chair of the Reentry Committee Latino Task Force, spoke in support of Families for Dignity and Justice to thank Marshal for the survey and emphasize that incarcerated individuals and their families must have a voice in creating systemic solutions. While acknowledging the importance of the jail survey in capturing real experiences inside the facilities, he stressed that data collection cannot be the end of the process. He called on the Board to listen carefully to the feedback, publicly identify recurring safety and service issues, and establish a clear process to turn these findings into concrete action, noting that meaningful accountability requires action beyond listening.

Carrie, an organizer with Families for Dignity and Justice, thanked the Board for the survey and highlighted that an individual's incarceration impacts their entire family, who intimately hear about the breakdown of communication, lack of safety, and poor conditions inside. She emphasized that incarceration should not strip people of their humanity or silence family voices, arguing that families must have a formal place in this process. Ultimately, she urged the Board to establish stronger channels for incarcerated individuals and their families to report their experiences, listen to their loved ones, address recurring issues with direct action, and treat families as vital partners in making jails safer, more humane, and more accountable.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESENTATION: CROWDING COMMITTEE

John Ramirez, Chief of Staff at the San Francisco Sheriff's Office (SFSO), provided a brief overview regarding the operational framework of the Crowding Committee.

After the presentation, the board opened the floor for discussion and questions. Members Soo, Lozano, Ortiz, Palmer, and Cuevas posed clarifying questions and comments regarding the exact capacity thresholds, the logistical challenges of facility overcrowding, and the tracking metrics used to monitor jail conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh, shared feedback on behalf of local service providers regarding holding cell conditions. He noted that despite claims that holding cell occupancy never exceeds 20 individuals, service providers frequently witness overcrowding, with individuals forced to sleep on the floor due to a lack of space. He clarified that this discrepancy likely stems from a misunderstanding or misinformation rather than intentional dishonesty, and urged the board to look into the matter.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Vice President Ortiz and Member Lozano delivered a brief report summarizing their recent site visit to the RESET center. Following this joint update, Vice President Ortiz provided a separate report detailing her individual visit to County Jail 1 (CJ1).

After the presentation, the board opened the floor for discussion and questions. Members Soo and Palmer asked clarifying questions and offered comments regarding the physical conditions observed at CJ1, the operational capabilities of the RESET center, and the overall coordination of services for incarcerated individuals.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Veronica provided translated testimony from Spanish. She urged board members to continue conducting firsthand jail visits, emphasizing that experiencing facility conditions in person and hearing directly from impacted individuals is far more powerful than reviewing data reports. She implored the board to take decisive action when seeing systemic issues, reminding members that incarcerated individuals are human beings—fathers, mothers, and siblings—who deserve to be treated with fundamental dignity. She concluded by thanking the board for listening to the needs of the families.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board initiated the annual election of officers for the positions of President and Vice President of the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) for the upcoming year, in accordance with SDOB Rules of Order 1.3. Prior to opening the floor for nominations, current President Palmer and Vice President Ortiz offered opening remarks reflecting on their leadership and the board's work over the past year.

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of President. President Palmer nominated Vice President Ortiz for President, and Member Dignan nominated Member Soo for President.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh spoke in support of Vice President Ortiz, praising her intentional community engagement, active listening, and strong relationship with organizations like the Latino Task Force, urging the board to consider these efforts in their presidential vote.

President Palmer commented on the difficulties of the presidency, emphasizing that effective leadership requires a deep connection to the community, the dedication to visit local facilities, and the ability to relate to all residents across the City and County of San Francisco.

Member Dignan spoke in support of his nomination of Member Julie Soo, stating that the board is at a critical juncture and needs her extensive experience, legal background, and solid leadership to address pressing issues within the Sheriff's Department, specifically emphasizing her ability to guide the board in hiring an Inspector General.

Member Lozano noted the difficulty of choosing between the two qualified candidates and voting publicly, while acknowledging that only one of the two candidates had consistently put in work over the past year.

Votes were taken in the order of nominations.

Upon the call of the roll for the nomination of Vice President Ortiz for President, the Board Secretary erroneously tabulated and announced the initial vote as 4 in favor and 3 opposed. The actual vote roll call for Vice President Ortiz resulted as follows:

In favor: Lozano, Ortiz, Palmer

Opposed: Cuevas, Dignan, Rosboro, Soo

Following that vote, the next call of the roll for President was for the nomination of Member Soo for President, which resulted as follows:

In favor: Cuevas, Dignan, Rosboro, Soo

Opposed: Lozano, Ortiz, Palmer

Following the second roll call, the Board Secretary corrected the previous mistake and announced the final, accurate tally for the first vote for Vice President Ortiz as 3 in favor and 4 opposed.

The final vote count for Member Soo stood at 4 in favor and 3 opposed. Having received the majority of the votes cast, Member Soo was officially elected President.

The Board Secretary offered congratulations and asked if President-elect Soo wished to address the board, after which President Soo offered a few brief remarks.

Following President Soo's remarks, the floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice President. Member Rosboro nominated Vice President Ortiz to continue serving as Vice President, and Member Dignan nominated Member Lozano to serve as Vice President.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION ON VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS:

Member Dignan spoke in support of Member Lozano, stating that despite being relatively new to the board, she has demonstrated a strong grasp of the issues and a dedication to achieving greater accountability within the Sheriff's Department. He emphasized that her decades of experience as an attorney and her current managerial role would serve the board well, particularly in securing an Inspector General.

Member Palmer expressed regret that Member Ortiz was not elected President, noting that the board is facing budget cuts from the Mayor, as well as efforts to eliminate the board or remove members. He pledged to spend the final two years of his term ensuring that Proposition F and other executive actions do not compromise the board's independence or advocacy work. He added

that while Vice President Ortiz has a different style than his own, she is honest, fair, and deeply dedicated to the community.

President Soo spoke in support of Member Lozano, highlighting a long-term goal to establish arraignments or a satellite courthouse at County Jail 3 in San Bruno. She noted that implementing this would require coordination with the Presiding Judge, Public Defender, and District Attorney, and would alleviate staffing shortages, reduce disruptions to inmate programming, and mitigate the issue of a failing transport bus fleet.

Member Rosboro spoke in support of Vice President Ortiz, praising her progress and ability to keep meetings on track during her short tenure. She emphasized the critical importance of maintaining a strong connection to the community, noting that the board needs a balance between legal minds and community advocates rather than falling into political voting patterns or a status quo that existed at the board's inception.

Votes were taken in the order of nominations.

Upon the call of the roll for the nomination of Vice President Ortiz for Vice President, the vote resulted in 3 in favor and 4 opposed as follows:

In favor: Ortiz, Palmer, Rosboro

Opposed: Cuevas, Dignan, Lozano, Soo

The Board then proceeded to the roll call vote for the nomination of Member Lozano for Vice President, which resulted as follows:

In favor: Cuevas, Dignan, Lozano, Ortiz, Soo

Opposed: Palmer, Rosboro

Having received the majority of the votes cast with a 5 to 2 tally, Member Lozano was officially elected Vice President. The Board Secretary congratulated Vice President-elect Lozano and invited her to address the board, after which she offered a few brief remarks.

CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT: SAN FRANCISCO JAILS IN CRISIS

*President Palmer initiated a discussion on the 2025–2026 Civil Grand Jury Report, titled “When Making Do Doesn't Work: San Francisco Jails in Crisis.” **While he was locating the report, Members Lozano, Cuevas, and Ortiz offered clarifying comments.** Because President Palmer's drafted responses were provided to the Board Secretary only an hour before the meeting, the Secretary did not have an opportunity to disseminate them to the board members, leaving insufficient time for advance review. Consequently, President Palmer proceeded to read his responses directly into the record.*

Following the reading of President Palmer's lengthy reading of the response, the Board ran out of time. The Board Secretary announced that this line item, along with agenda items 7, 8, 9, and 10, would be continued to a future meeting.

President Palmer noted that the Court granted a 14-day extension from the original September 7 deadline to September 21, 2026, for a collective Board response, as the Court advised it cannot be submitted by the President individually. Because President Palmer failed to provide his drafted responses in a timely manner for Board distribution and review, the item could not be discussed or completed.

Consequently, President Palmer moved to convene a special Board meeting as soon as possible to review, amend, and vote on the final response before the deadline. The motion was seconded by Vice President Ortiz.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An unidentified speaker informed the board that the Government Audit and Oversight Committee of the Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing on September 17, 2026, regarding the Civil Grand Jury Report. The speaker noted that the hearing will feature testimony from the Civil Grand Jury, the Sheriff's Office, and other stakeholders, which may provide useful context for the Board's final planning.

On the call of the roll on the Motion to Convene a Special Board Meeting as soon as possible to meet upcoming deadlines:

In favor: Cuevas, Dignan, Lozano, Ortiz, Palmer, Rosboro, Soo

Opposed: None

APPROVED.

SDOB 2025 Q4 AND 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Continued to a future meeting due to time constraints.

BOARD RULES AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Continued to a future meeting due to time constraints.

MEETING MANAGEMENT AND MEMBER CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Continued to a future meeting due to time constraints.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continued to a future meeting due to time constraints.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Having continued Items 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 due to time constraints, and there being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Full video recording may be accessed at:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/53110?view_id=223&redirect=true