CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERSIGHT BOARD

c/o Office of Sheriff's Inspector General
ONE SOUTH VAN NESS AVE, 8TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
PHONE (415-241-7711 | EMAIL SDOB@SFGOV.ORG

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

To: Paul Miyamoto, San Francisco Sheriff
and San Francisco Board of Supervisors
From: Sheriff's Department Oversight Board
Subject: 2026 Q3 Report - *Draft*
Date: TBD – pending board review and approval

Introduction

Charter Section 4.137 (b) (5) mandates that the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board (SDOB) "Prepare and submit a quarterly report to the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors regarding the SDOB evaluations and outreach, and OSIG (Office of Sheriff's Inspector General) reports submitted to the SDOB."

Charter Section 4.137 also mandates that the SDOB:

> (2) Evaluate the work of the Sheriff's Inspector General (SIG) and may review the SIG's individual work performance.
>
> (3) Compile, evaluate, and recommend law enforcement custodial and patrol best practices.
>
> (4) Conduct community outreach and receive community input regarding SFSD operations and jail conditions, by holding public meetings and soliciting input from persons incarcerated in the City and County.

Evaluations of the SIG during Q3 2026:

The position of Sheriff's Inspector General remained vacant throughout Q3 2026, having been unfilled since January 2025. On August 7, 2026, the Board approved a formal motion forwarding recommendations to the Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors, and the Sheriff's Office to expedite the national recruitment search. The Board also examined structural and financial issues regarding the vacancy, including a public inquiry into why the job opening is hosted externally by Berkeley Search Consultants rather than through the City's internal SmartRecruiters platform.

SDOB community outreach:

The Board gathered significant community feedback during public sessions this quarter:

- Inmate Advocacy & Conditions: Organizers from *Families for Dignity and Justice* and the *Reentry Committee Latino Task Force* formally addressed the Board, urging members to utilize raw data to drive decisive actions and to preserve human dignity for families navigating the system.
- Systemic Jail Misuse: Public speakers highlighted the inappropriate utilization of regional jails as temporary sobering centers or medical detoxification wards for non-violent individuals experiencing substance or mental health crises.
- Rehabilitative Models: Religious chaplains and educational advocates presented testimony regarding unwritten parole board presumptions and urged a programmatic shift from punitive measures to cost-effective, rehabilitative educational investments.

SIG reports submitted to SDOB Q3 2026:

No OSIG reports were submitted during this quarter due to the ongoing vacancy of the Inspector General position. However, the Board received and thoroughly reviewed the finalized 2026 San Francisco Jail Survey Report presented directly by Marshall Khine, Chief of Staff at the Department of Police Accountability (DPA), on September 4, 2026.

Summary of monthly commission board meetings:

July

A rescheduled regular session was held on July 24, 2026. The chair outlined strategies for maintaining consistent quorums given expanding facility oversight, suggesting executive officers meet more frequently and urging members to utilize remote attendance options. Additionally, the Board initiated its administrative timeline to respond to the 2025–2026 Civil Grand Jury report regarding jail overcrowding and understaffing, tracking a firm legislative response deadline of September 7, 2026. Finally, the Board sought guidance from the Deputy City Attorney regarding its legal authority to conduct unannounced site inspections at facilities where sheriff deputies are assigned, agreeing to defer the legal details to a private consultation.

August

A regular session was held on August 7, 2026. During this session, the Board voted unanimously to formally forward specific Inspector General recruitment recommendations to executive city branches to accelerate the hiring process. Member Soo led a discussion regarding recent felony charges filed against a former Sheriff's deputy, after which the Board formally requested that the Sheriff's Office issue internal updates to board members regarding critical personnel incidents prior to media dissemination. In handling policy decisions, the Board reviewed several operational options and voted down proposals to purchase identifying branding apparel or custom varsity jackets for members, citing strict budget constraints. Finally, the Board voted down a proposed press release regarding prison lockdowns and parole backlogs. It also declined a suggested appointment of a school outreach liaison, citing current oversight obligations as a priority.

September

Regular Session (September 4):

Pursuant to Rules of Order 1.3, the Board conducted its annual leadership elections, resulting in Member Julie D. Soo being elected President by a 4–3 vote and Member Diane Lozano being elected Vice President by a 5–2 vote for the upcoming term beginning in October. Following the elections, Vice President Ortiz and Member Lozano delivered a joint report on their field visit to the RESET center, and Vice President Ortiz provided individual findings from her site inspection of County Jail 1. Additionally, regarding the Civil Grand Jury report framework, President Palmer announced that the Court had granted a 14-day filing extension to September 21, 2026 for the Board's collective response. Because the initial draft texts were submitted too late for advance review, the Board unanimously approved an emergency motion to convene a special session to finalize the language.

Special Meeting (September 18):

During the Special Meeting on September 18, 2026, the Board conducted a systematic, item-by-item review of the Civil Grand Jury findings. Following real-time modifications, the Board voted unanimously (7–0) to approve and adopt its final, structured response language for Finding F1 regarding jail inspection parameters, Finding F3 regarding jail capacity metrics, and Finding F13 regarding jail lockdown protocols. The Board agreed that its final findings directly encompassed specific legislative responses to multiple Grand Jury recommendations. These included Recommendation R1-B concerning the implementation of biannual board inspections of the San Francisco and San Bruno jails in strict compliance with the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance and Recommendation R3-A regarding the inclusion of SDOB representatives on the Sheriff's Office Crowding Committee. Member Soo spoke to reinstituting monthly SDOB member visits to jail facilities and other facilities subject to Sheriff's Office

operations. Finally, the approved language addressed Recommendations R13-A and R13-B, which advocate for a standardized tracking system and public data dashboards to capture, report, and publish detailed metrics regarding staffing-related jail lockdowns and service reductions.

Board Composition & Member Status Updates:

On September 29, 2026, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (11–0) to pass Motion M26-098, which officially suspended Commissioner/Board Member William Palmer, II from the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and approved charges of official misconduct under City Charter Section 15.105. This administrative action followed a formal investigation report released on September 11, 2026, by the San Francisco Office of the Inspector General, which substantiated multiple ethics and conflict-of-interest violations, including allegations that the prestige of public office was used for private gain during law enforcement encounters and interactions with hospital staff in secure areas. The matter and formal charges have since been transmitted to the San Francisco Ethics Commission for an administrative hearing. Per municipal procedure, Commissioner/Board Member Palmer remains suspended from all board activities, votes, and panel sessions pending the final administrative resolution and a subsequent removal determination by the Board of Supervisors.