

From: [Youngblood, Stacy \(POL\)](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#)
Subject: FW: DGO 5.20 | Working Group Member Feedback
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Attachments: [SFPD DGO 5.20 Working Group Membership Roster.pdf](#)

From: David Cuadro [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Clay, Clarence (POL) <clarence.clay@sfgov.org>; Benedicto, Kevin (POL) <kevin.benedicto@sfgov.org>; Elias, Cindy (POL) <cindy.elias@sfgov.org>; Yee, Larry (POL) <lawrence.yee1@sfgov.org>; Leung, Wilson (POL) <wilson.leung@sfgov.org>; Scott, Mattie (POL) <mattie.scott@sfgov.org>; Tekkey, Pratibha (POL) <pratibha.tekkey@sfgov.org>
Cc: Steeves, Asja (POL) <asja.steeves@sfgov.org>; writtendirectives, sfpd (POL) <sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org>
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Commissioners,

I served on the DGO 5.20 working group beginning in the summer of 2024, and I was the sole “community member” on the working group roster and I fully support SFPD’s current proposal. Please see the attached roster.

I watched the February 4th Police Commission meeting and was frankly stunned. After nearly two years of meetings, drafts, and revisions, I still did not hear clear, specific operational reasons for why this policy should not be approved. Instead, the discussion was dominated by vague assertions that the “community” was not sufficiently involved.

That claim is simply not true.

I was the only actual community member consistently participating in the working group. There seems to be a persistent effort to treat organized advocacy groups as if they represent the entirety of San Francisco. They do not. Most everyday San Franciscans have no idea this drawn-out, highly bureaucratic policy process is even taking place and many would likely be shocked at how long a straightforward operational policy has been delayed, almost 2 years! Commissioner Cindy Elias’ comments suggesting that meetings held at police facilities limited community participation were out of line with reality. From my firsthand experience, SFPD staff were professional, welcoming, and open to input throughout the process. I took time away from my job to attend meetings in person. Meanwhile, many stakeholder representatives who

were given a seat at the table chose to participate remotely via Zoom, often without even appearing on camera.

The meetings were also open to the public virtually. Anyone who did not want to attend a meeting at a police station could still observe or participate. The narrative that accessibility was lacking does not reflect how the process was actually structured.

At the request of then-Commissioner Jesus Yanez, SFPD even held a working group session at Mission Station specifically to address concerns about location. During that meeting, a group of activists was brought in to provide public comment during what had been structured as a working session. This shows that opportunities for outside input were not only available - they were actively facilitated by SFPD.

Over the course of many months, the working group spent excessive time debating minor, largely immaterial edits that had little practical impact on how language access is delivered in the field. What should have been a focused policy effort turned into a prolonged exercise in procedural delay and shifting demands of special interest groups.

Language access is important, but this proposal is not radical, controversial, or untested. SFPD already provides language assistance in practice. This policy is meant to formalize and clarify existing procedures. After nearly two years of discussion, continued delay is difficult to justify.

Public safety policy cannot be held in an endless loop of revisions. Advisory input is valuable, but at some point the Commission must make decisions. I strongly urge the Commission to approve this DGO and allow the Department to move forward with training, clarity, and implementation.

Respectfully,
David Cuadro