

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** General Public Comment  
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To San Francisco City Leadership,

I am writing to make a direct and urgent request: initiate a formal, independent audit of the Department of Police Accountability.

This is not a new concern. I have been raising it for two years. During that time, the core issue has remained unchanged — the DPA is overstepping its Charter-defined authority.

The Charter authorizes the DPA to **receive and investigate complaints**. It does not authorize the routine expansion of cases through **added or self-initiated allegations** that go beyond the original complaint. Yet that is what we are seeing in practice.

When an agency can layer on additional allegations, it is no longer simply investigating — it is shaping and expanding the case itself. That blurs the line between neutral fact-finding and advocacy, and raises serious due-process concerns.

There is also a real-world consequence that this committee cannot ignore: every added allegation pulls officers off the street. Officers are taken off the beat, out of service, and into extended investigative processes to defend against claims that were not part of the original complaint. That impacts staffing, response times, and ultimately public safety in our neighborhoods.

Oversight should strengthen the system — not strain it.

If the DPA is operating within its authority, an audit will confirm that. If it is not, then this body has a duty to act.

That means: **a full independent audit, clear Charter clarification on the limits of investigations, restrictions on adding allegations beyond the original complaint, and stronger procedural guardrails.**

This is about balance. Accountability must exist — but it must exist within the law and within the limits voters approved.

Right now, that balance is off. It is your responsibility to correct it.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Lehman