

GOLDWATER
I N S T I T U T E
in defense of liberty

January 19, 2010

Dr. Joe Marshall, President
San Francisco Police Commission
Thomas J. Cahill Hall of Justice
850 Bryant Street, Room 505
San Francisco, California 94103-4603

RE: Patrol Special program

Dear Dr. Marshall:

I am writing in support of the continued existence and expansion of San Francisco's historic and innovative Patrol Special program. I am the author of the Goldwater Institute's policy report, *A New Charter for American Cities*, wherein I make the case for 10 principles and 27 policies that would restore efficient, accountable and freedom-friendly government at the local level. Later this year, our institute will be publishing a policy report, authored by one of the nation's leading experts, on applying managed competition principles and performance benchmarking to policing. We hope to use the example of San Francisco to provide other struggling cities with a sense of what is possible in delivering public safety services and how private policing can efficiently coexist with government-run policing services, allowing each to focus on their comparative advantages.

The bottom line is that keeping your city's innovative approach to community policing alive could not be more important than at this moment in time. Cities should be looking for ways to maximize their flexibility in providing services, not ways to lock themselves into a police box. They need to look to all options. San Francisco has been on the cutting-edge of delivering policing services through its Patrol Special program for over a century. The city should be thinking about how to expand the program, not how to eliminate it, in order to use its vast experience to become a leader that could guide other cities, which face tremendous budget problems stemming from the burdensome cost of city-delivered public safety programs.

Very truly yours,



Nick Dranias
Director, Center for Const. Government

cc:

George Gascon
Chief of Police, San Francisco
Thomas J. Cahill Hall of Justice
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San Francisco, CA 94103

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Mayor
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