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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2020

Council President Georgette Gomez
Members, San Diego City Council
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Support of Ballot Measure to create a Commission on Police Practices

Dear Council President Gomez and San Diego City Council,

The ballot measure to create a Commission on Police Practices with independent legal counsel, independent investigators and staff, subpoena power, and the ability to evaluate SDPD's compliance with all reporting laws and requirements is a commonsense proposal that will increase transparency, accountability, and community trust.

The current Community Review Board in San Diego does not have independent legal counsel, is not independent of politics and only reviews investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Department of the San Diego Police Department. This current system does not have a mechanism for members of the public to participate more directly which can lead to increased mistrust, cynicism and wariness between the police and our communities, particularly between police and our communities of color.

We would all benefit – police and the public – from a system that increases inclusiveness, transparency and public dialogue. We need a system that sows mutual respect, so all our citizens feel safe, protected, and confident that the men and women who wear the uniform are there to protect all of us equally.

The proposal in front of you is balanced, fair and common-sense. I urge you to vote to move this proposal forward to be placed on the November 2020 ballot and give the voters of San Diego a chance to participate more fully in the review of police practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Peters".

Scott Peters
U.S. Representative