

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kevin Ma <kevinma.sd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Comment on Policy and Services Item 3 (IPA Referral)

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Dear Councilmembers of the Policy and Services Committee,

I support restoring the process of referring internal complaints to the Independent Police Auditor. The 2019 decision to remove it from the IPA contract was a mistake, especially when there was [news over a complaint](#) just a few months beforehand. The danger of keeping things hidden is that there is less pressure for the issues to be addressed, and policing has had a long history of [brushing things off](#) and misconduct [spreading in a department](#). Officers are given unique powers in their duty to enforce the law and therefore should be held to a higher standard, otherwise the law may not be applied fairly and would instead breed discontent. And for a city with many recent news stories about the department, it would be best to err on the side of transparency.

Transparency and policies means nothing if there isn't accountability and enforcement. I ask the committee to ensure that complaints and concerns are properly followed up so that corrective measures can be done swiftly and comprehensively. This is especially important with a Policy Manual that still feels generic, what with the "[Department/Office]" references everywhere. For all the talk around criminals within the community, we need to make sure our own law enforcement officers are in order first.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ma