



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

**Ed Harrington
Controller**

**Monique Zmuda
Deputy Controller**

November 27, 2007

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco
Room 200, City Hall

The Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors
Room 244, City Hall

The Honorable Members, San Francisco Police Commission
850 Bryant Street, Room 505

Dear Mayor Newsom, Ladies and Gentleman:

I am transmitting with this letter an interim report pursuant to Administrative Code Sec.2A.86, which requires a comprehensive review of the existing San Francisco police district boundaries and recommendations for adjustments, as appropriate. Public Safety Strategies Group (PSSG) is conducting the evaluation under contract with the Controller's Office as part of the Controller's City Services Auditor Charter mandate. PSSG is a nationally-recognized consulting firm with significant expertise in public safety management, particularly in regards to program planning and evaluation.

The purpose of the interim report is to discuss national strategies for district boundary assessments and provide lessons learned from assessments in five comparison jurisdictions. The processes used by other jurisdictions will help identify strategies for establishing boundaries in San Francisco which optimize service delivery and enhance public safety. The report also provides a high-level overview of the districts as they are currently drawn in San Francisco.

In brief, this report shows that:

- There is not a single, standardized process for evaluating district boundaries.
- Agencies across the country use a variety of methods to determine boundaries including officer workload, time allocation, response times, ratio of patrol officers to supervisors and geographic considerations.
- Communities evaluate district boundaries to account for changes in community demographics, crime trends and budget reductions, as well as general community based changes.
- Departments with modern records management, crime tracking, mapping and data analysis systems are able to continually review trends allowing for consideration of community and department needs in a timely manner.

A final report applying the lessons learned from other jurisdictions to the San Francisco district station boundary assessment project will be issued early next year. The final report will review the San Francisco Police Department's crime rates, district staffing and survey responses related to district boundaries. The final report will also include recommendations for the City to consider regarding district boundaries.

If we can answer any questions or provide additional information, please feel free to contact Corina Monzón or me at 554-7500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peg Stevenson".

Peg Stevenson
City Services Audit Director

cc: Heather Fong, Chief of Police