

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

June 18, 2018

Dear Mayor Schaaf,

We are deeply concerned about the current threat to the independence of the independent police commission. As you know, Oakland voters supported the establishment of the Commission by over 83%.

Your position that would give the City Attorney authority over the Commission's legal advisor is disappointing. During the establishment of the Commission, you demanded the power to appoint three seats. Your own appointees, all attorneys, as well as the Selection Panel appointees, believe that the Commission must have independent legal advice. The Federal Monitor team has documented the problematic roles of the City Attorney and City Administrator in undermining police accountability.

It is worth noting that the current concerns were never raised by the City Attorney during the drafting, review, and the City Council's passage of the Measure to place the initiative on the ballot.

Please respect the voters' demand for a truly independent Police Commission. To do otherwise jeopardizes effective oversight of the police and hinders our City's ability to finally end almost two decades of Federal oversight. The independence of the Police Commission is critical to instilling public trust and confidence of City residents in our police department.

Sincerely,
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
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