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CONTACT:

Holly Amaya
(619) 573-7224

holly@storyimprinting.com

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR
CITY OF SAN DIEGO MEASURE B**

SAN DIEGO (October 16, 2020) —The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) has announced its support for City of San Diego Measure B, the voter initiative on the November 3 general election ballot to form an independent Commission on Police Practices in the City of San Diego.

We are at a critical crossroads in our nation’s history, as protests swell coast to coast over systemic racism and incidents of police misconduct. As the largest law-related organization in San Diego County, taking a position on independent police oversight and accountability is related to both the SDCBA’s mission and to its commitment to fairness, equity, and equal access to justice under the law. For that reason, the SDCBA supports Measure B.

The board comprising the Commission on Police Practices would be appointed by the City Council and would operate independently of the Mayor and of the San Diego Police Department. It would have the power to independently initiate misconduct investigations and subpoena documents and witnesses – neither of which its predecessor, the Community Review Board on Police Practices, could do. It also would be required to independently investigate all police-related deaths and officer-involved shootings. The San Diego City Charter amendment establishing the new Commission on Police Practices would vest the body with full investigative authority, including the ability to retain experts and investigators that are independent from the internal affairs section of the San Diego Police Department. It would have an independent Executive Director and staff, as well as independent legal counsel without conflicts and separate from the Office of the City Attorney. This oversight protects both San Diegans and law enforcement by ensuring an independent oversight body.

Measure B is supported by numerous legal, community, and advocacy groups, elected officials, and others. There is no formal opposition.

Transparency and impartiality of this magnitude are critical to ensure independent police oversight and accountability and to increase our community’s trust in law enforcement. Accordingly, the SDCBA supports Measure B.

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The San Diego County Bar Association, founded in 1899, is the region’s largest law-related organization, dedicated to serving the needs of all attorneys and the legal community in San Diego County.