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June 22, 2020

Hon. Georgette Gomez  
President, San Diego City Council  
202 C Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Agenda Item 331**

Dear Council President Gomez:

The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA), the largest law-related organization in San Diego County representing nearly 10,000 members, supports R-2020-588 (approve and ratify an agreement between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Police Officers Association related to a proposed San Diego City Charter amendment to dissolve the Community Review Board on Police Practices and establish a Commission on Police Practices) and R-2020-613 (declare intention to submit to the qualified voters of the City, at the next Municipal Special Election, expected to be held on November 3, 2020, one measure to amend San Diego City Charter to dissolve the Community Review Board on Police Practices and establish Commission on Police Practices.)

We are pleased to see the following features in the Charter amendment language establishing the Commission on Police Practices:

- Members appointed by the City Council;
- Independent Executive Director/staff;
- Independent legal counsel without conflicts and separate from the Office of the City Attorney;
- Investigative authority, including the ability to retain and utilize their own experts and investigators that are independent from the internal affairs department of the San Diego Police Department;
- Authority to conduct investigatory proceedings, including the power to subpoena documents and witnesses, and to compel witness testimony

By passing these resolutions, you will give the community the opportunity to vote to ensure independent police oversight and accountability.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Johanna Schiavoni  
President

Jill Epstein  
Executive Director

