

From: Stephen Bingham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 8:09 PM
To: Rob Epstein <Rob.Epstein@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: decision-making at the PAAC

Hi Rob,

At the PAAC meeting last week, PAAC members were handed a draft of the PAAC annual report and told they would discuss and vote on it at the next meeting. What is very disturbing is that the draft has a series of measures which the PAAC supposedly already approved at earlier meetings, all of which will be in the report to be voted on at the next meeting.

There are two serious problems with this:

- The PAAC never took formal votes on any of them. Particularly stunning is apparent support for SRO's in the schools. There was ONE PAAC member who expressed support for SRO's but no one else spoke on the subject to my memory and certainly no vote was taken.
- It appeared that the City's intention was not to vote belatedly on each measure but lump them altogether as part of the vote on the annual report.

I spoke briefly with Chief Spiller after the meeting and he said the City has a different view of the process.

What is going on?? This is highly irregular and almost certainly illegal. After so many hours helping put the PAAC, it is beyond disappointing to see it apparently being turned into a community support group for measures desired by SRPD.

Sorry to send this just before Thanksgiving but please get back to me early next week. Hopefully we all misunderstood the City's intentions.

Thanks,

Steve

Stephen Bingham

Co-Director

Sylvia Bingham Fund

www.sylviabinghamfund.org

Coordinator, California Ride of Silence Organizers

Board of Directors, [Ride of Silence](#)

Member, [Families for Safe Streets/San Francisco](#)

Truck Underride Advocacy TEAM

From: [Scott Eberle](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Angela Robinson Piñon](#); [Teresa Olson](#); [Rob Epstein](#); [David Spiller](#)
Subject: Re: Annual Report Concerns
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 9:04:45 AM

Mr. Bingham – Let me first offer our thanks for your continued engagement with the Police Advisory and Accountability Committee (PAAC). Your consistent attendance and thoughtful contributions reflect your genuine care for our community, and I deeply appreciate the substance and sincerity you bring to our discussions.

In consideration of the issues you have raised, and a review with the City Attorney, I would like to provide some clarity. The Annual Report is intended to serve as a comprehensive summary of the PAAC's activities over the past year. It will highlight the topics discussed, include recommendations made by members of the committee, and outline future goals, which will be presented to the City Council in early 2025.

The purpose of the Annual Report is to capture the diverse perspectives and recommendations of all committee members who wish to give their feedback. We recognize and value the unique viewpoints each PAAC member brings. The selection of nine members for the (PAAC) was intentional, aimed at ensuring a diverse range of perspectives could be represented. With a committee of this size, our objective is to document and capture a variety of viewpoints, providing a comprehensive understanding of the issues discussed. This approach ensures that when the City Council, City Manager, and Chief of Police review the committee's work, they have access to a broad spectrum of insights to inform their decision-making.

From the PAAC Bylaws:

Section 1.2. Purpose. The purpose of the Committee is to provide input to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the San Rafael Police Department and provide greater community participation *in making recommendations on police department policies, practices, and procedures, including those related to community relations, hiring, and training best practices*. In addition to improving transparency and accountability, the Committee will build points of collaboration between the San Rafael Police Department and the community. Additionally, the Committee will review data and policies and facilitate authentic community engagement.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide input to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the San Rafael Police Department and provide greater community participation in making recommendations on police department policies, practices, and procedures, including those related to

community relations, hiring, and training best practices.

Addressing your concern over the reintegration of SRPD officers into schools. Teresa Olsa, our PAAC Analyst went through the September 18th and October 16th meetings to confirm the following:

1. The staff report reads, “ Youth and Policing, Support the reintegration of SRPD officers in schools. This recommendation is under consideration.” *At no point does the Annual Report staff report or the Annual Report itself mention SRO specifically. Additionally, the recommendation status says under consideration and the annual report further discusses this is only at a discussion level and again speaks about partnerships and does not say the SRO program.*
2. The annual report reads, “ October 2024 – Youth and Policing - **Support the reintegration of SRPD officers in schools.**

Status: *This recommendation is under consideration.*

Explanation: *SRPD is in discussions with the San Rafael City School (SRCS) District about potential options for future partnerships. Staff is also evaluating different models and will solicit feedback from the community as part of this effort. These groups will bring together key stakeholders, including youth representatives, school and school district representatives, community members, and social service providers to seek their input. A partnership between SRPD and the SRCS District would likely require a formal agreement that would be subject to approval from both the City Council and SRCS Board of Education.*

3. At the PAAC September 18, 2024, meeting. At time marker 1:34:15 the Chief clarifies and says, “ ... A point of consideration...to the Committee that staff is not making a recommendation to the PAAC but rather bringing this item to the PAAC for their consideration and for PAAC to form a recommendation to bring forward to City Council through the Annual Report.
4. The committee has a very robust discussion on this item for over twenty minutes during the September 18, 2024, meeting.
5. At the PAAC September 18, 2024, meeting. At time marker 1:35:03 Chair Kamena says, “...it sounds like the consensus of the committee is to have SROs back in SR schools...” The recommendation in the Annual Report, however, does not say SRO but rather to explore the reintegration and look at potential partnerships with the school district.
6. *During the September 18, 2024, meeting, Members Alm, Davidi, Fatai, Kamena, Ruiz all made favorable comments/recommendations about supporting having SRPD back in schools in either an SRO model or other type of program. Member Alvarez made comments about knowing what the youth and community want.

(PAAC September 18, 2024, meeting)

7. We reached out to the Youth Leadership Institute and invited them to attend this meeting in person or to provide public comment. No one from the group attended or provided comment.
8. At the October 16, 2024 meeting Fatai, Kamena, and Alm all expressed wanting to discuss the topic of youth and policing further, “take a deeper dive”, and “bring back” which is also reflected in the Annual Report.
9. At the October 16, 2024 meeting Alm says he wants to stress to City Council to restudy the topic, and to build a partnership...have the SRPD/City work with the board of trustees and have youth involvement in the decision-making process.

For the Annual Report, making the recommendations in less summary form and more how it is outlined above will bring more clarity to the report that really reflects all the perspectives. There is no “vote” by the PAAC to approve the Annual Report, just an opportunity at the next meeting to provide more insight/recommendations.

As we have all emphasized, the PAAC is an advisory body. The PAAC Annual Report summarizes the recommendations and feedback of Committee members for review by the City Council, in accordance with its bylaws. It is important to note that no recommendation from the PAAC is binding. The City Council serves as the decision-making body and would be responsible for agendaizing and voting on any item if it were to reach that level of formality.

I hope you have a good rest of your week and Holiday Season.

Respectfully,

Scott Eberle | Lieutenant

San Rafael Police Department

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From: [Stephen Bingham](#)
To: [Scott Eberle](#)
Cc: [Angela Robinson Piñon](#); [Teresa Olson](#); [Rob Epstein](#); [David Spiller](#)
Subject: RE: Annual Report Concerns
Date: Saturday, November 30, 2024 7:14:40 PM

Hi Lt. Eberle,

Thank you for your long and thoughtful response.

Unfortunately it doesn't resolve the issues I raise nor are your conclusions in conformity with the by-laws of the PAAC.:

- You write “**Section 1.2. Purpose.** The purpose of the Committee is to provide input ... *in making recommendations* When any public committee is tasked with making recommendations, it is clear that the committee must vote on what to recommend. The by-law language does not specify that individuals of the PAAC will make recommendations. The language of your proposed annual support unambiguously suggests that suggestions by individual PAAC members are recommendations of the entire PAAC. That is disingenuous and unacceptable. I would be very surprised if Mr. Epstein disagrees with me on this point.
- You suggest there's a difference between “SRO's” and the reintegration of SRPD officers in schools. I don't know what that difference is. What I do know is that there is widespread opposition in San Rafael to having SRPD officers in the schools, whatever their title. To transform the vague approval by some PAAC members with different thoughts on a concept, not referencing specific language, into a

PAAC recommendation is unacceptable.

- You write: “ At the PAAC September 18, 2024, meeting. At time marker 1:34:15 the Chief clarifies that staff is ... bringing this item to the PAAC for their consideration and **for PAAC to form a recommendation** [emphasis added]. There is no “vote” by the PAAC to approve the Annual Report to bring forward to City Council through the Annual Report.” There is no way for the PAAC to make a recommendation to present to the City Council without it taking a vote. To correct the error of not voting, there needs to be full discussion on each item and then a vote on the specific language of each recommendation.
- You note in para. #5 that “Chair Kamena says, “...it sounds like the consensus of the committee is to have SROs back in SR schools...” There was NEVER a consensus on the PAAC to have SRPD officers in the schools, whether called SRO’s or something else. Her comment highlights for me why it was never a good idea to have a former LEO (Chief DA) as chair of the PAAC. Even she (and others) later said that more study was needed before making a recommendation: “At the October 16, 2024 meeting Fatai, Kamena, and Alm all expressed wanting to discuss the topic of youth and policing further, “take a deeper dive”, and “bring back” ... [a recommendation]
- You write “There is no “vote” by the PAAC to approve the Annual Report.” That’s disappointing if true. To ask members of the community to commit to hours and hours of meetings and then tell them there will be no votes on anything is harsh indeed. I’ve never heard of an advisory committee not being allowed to cast votes on anything. That doesn’t seem to be the understanding of most members of the

PAAC. What other San Rafael advisory committee operates that way?

If that's the new reality, then the draft Annual Report must be re-written to make it clear that any 'recommendation' mentioned in the report is only the recommendation of one or more specific individuals about a concept, with no reference to specific language. Specifically the Annual Report must clarify that there will be no recommendations by the PAAC presented to the City Council because the PAAC never voted as a Committee on anything. I trust all of this will be clarified at the next so-called 'special meeting.'

On the question of youth involvement, you mention consulting with 'youth representatives' about what role, if any, SRPD will have in SR schools. You said you reached out to the Youth Leadership Institute to ask students to attend the meeting on youth issues but that no one came. Obviously there's a problem. It's very difficult for youths to attend a long meeting at 6 pm on a week night. Also, some youths who have had negative interactions with SRPD officers may be afraid to attend. I'd suggest weekend meetings for youth in the Canal and Marin City. I and other would certainly help to encourage youths to attend such a meeting.

As I don't have email addresses for most of the PAAC members, please ensure they all receive copies of this email.

Thanks,

Steve Bingham

From: Scott Eberle <475@srapd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 9:05 AM
To: smbingham@earthlink.net
Cc: Angela Robinson Piñon <Angela.RobinsonPinon@cityofsanrafael.org>; Teresa Olson <701@srapd.org>; Rob Epstein <Rob.Epstein@cityofsanrafael.org>; David Spiller <661@srapd.org>
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Respectfully,

Scott Eberle | Lieutenant

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Do These Things Today. Be Safer Tomorrow

AN UPDATED TO-DO LIST TO MAKE IT MUCH HARDER FOR SCAMMERS TO REACH YOU BY AMY NOFZIGER AND MARK FETTERHOFF



Open your iPhone's contact list and add your family, friends, doctors and other important numbers. Then go into your phone settings and turn on the setting for "silence unknown callers." This will send any caller who isn't in your contacts list directly to voicemail.



Make sure you are signed out of any financial apps on your phone—credit cards, financial institutions and peer-to-peer apps such as Venmo, CashApp or Zelle. Also make sure your account settings require security measures such as a PIN, fingerprint or facial recognition. This ensures that if your phone is stolen, the thief will not have access to your money.



Audit your wallet or purse. That means remove cards and information you don't need to carry (such as your Social Security or Medicare card). And make copies of anything you do need to carry (front and back) and store in a safe place at home.



Routinely monitor your credit report. Some banks or credit cards offer this as a free service. You can also go to AnnualCreditReport.com or call 877-822-8228 to get free reports from the big three credit bureaus. Watch for unusual activity; if you see any, report it immediately to all three bureaus and appropriate financial institutions.



Every few months, revise the passwords on your financial accounts. Your best bet is to use a passphrase: floremy17dogz! is much stronger than Scruffy23. Keep track of passwords in a highly secure password manager or by writing them down and storing them safely.



Be skeptical. Many criminals use friendliness, compassion and kindness as their persuasion method, rather than fear and intimidation. Likewise, scammers create a sense of urgency to get you to act out of emotion rather than logic. If you feel pressured or manipulated, walk away.



Add the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline phone number into your phone right now, so you'll have it if you need to call us to report a scam attempt or get more advice on how to stay safer from the people out there trying to steal your money and identity: 877-302-3380.



Check your social media settings to make sure you have your accounts set to private. This allows only people you choose to trust to view your pages and contact you.
Amy Nofziger is the director of AARP's fraud victim support. Mark Fetterhoff is a senior adviser on the victim support team.

Happy Holidays from
Salaman. See you in
the New Year

ROSENBERG'S RULES OF ORDER CHEAT SHEET

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn" (Only needed prior to the end of the agenda)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room temp., etc.	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decides
Suspend further consideration of	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question" or "Call the question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce a motion	"I move that..." or "I move to..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..." (You can also ask for a friendly amendment, which is less formal; if mover and second concur, no vote needed)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to a Committee	"I move that the question be referred to a committee for more study"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question" (This would generally just be used if something is not on the agenda)	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..." (Only a member of the prevailing side can make a motion to reconsider)	Yes	Yes	Only if original motion	No	Majority
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess or Point of Privilege).