



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 25, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Consideration of Adopting a Resolution Stating the City Council's Position of No Confidence in Sheriff Christina Corpus and Calling on Sheriff Corpus to Resign.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a Resolution stating the City Council's position of No Confidence in Sheriff Christina Corpus and calling on Sheriff Corpus to resign.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None for this action.

BACKGROUND:

On September 28, 2010, the City entered into a Law Enforcement Services Agreement ("Agreement") with the County of San Mateo Sheriff's Office with an effective date of October 31, 2010. The Agreement includes police management, patrol, investigation, traffic enforcement, community and school services, as well as support service components. The Agreement also maintains minimum staffing levels for patrol and provides for the same quick response times previously provided by the San Carlos Police Department. The contract was originally approved for a term commencing October 31, 2010 through June 30, 2015 and has been renewed for two additional five year terms. The existing Agreement expires on June 30, 2025.

ANALYSIS:

On November 13, 2024, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors released a 400-page independent investigation ("Report") of the Sheriff. The Report was prepared by Retired Judge LaDoris H. Cordell who interviewed 40 current and past sworn and civilian employees. The Report sustained several allegations including that Sheriff Corpus and her Executive Team have engaged in retaliation and intimidation, exceeded and/or abused their authority, and that the Sheriff has uttered and texted racial and homophobic slurs in the workplace. Per the Executive Summary of the Report, "Lies, secrecy, intimidation, retaliation, conflicts of interest, and abuses of authority are the hallmarks of the Corpus administration. Sheriff Corpus should step down and Victor Aenlle's employment with the Sheriff's Office should be terminated immediately. Nothing short of new leadership can save this organization that is in turmoil, and its personnel demoralized."

On November 18, 2024, San Mateo County Congressional and Legislative leaders issued a statement calling for Sheriff Corpus to resign. Their joint letter stated: "Our county can no longer afford the chaos and failed leadership of Christina Corpus." The letter was signed by

Congressman Kevin Mullin 15th District, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo 16th District, Senator Josh Becker 13th District, Assemblymember Marc Berman 23rd District and Assemblymember Diane Papan 21st District.

On November 19, 2024, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors introduced an Ordinance calling for a special election for the purpose of voting on an amendment to the County Charter granting the Board of Supervisors the authority, until December 31, 2028, to remove an elected sheriff for cause.

Since Sheriff Corpus took office in January 2023, at least 106 sworn staff have left the agency and approximately half of those individuals were not eligible for retirement which is highly unusual. There has been significant turnover in the executive staff including the Undersheriff and two Assistant Sheriffs that the Sheriff either hired or promoted. In addition, the Deputy Sheriff's Association overwhelmingly adopted a no confidence action in the Executive Director of Administration. While the Sheriff's office has been able to maintain the staffing levels as outlined in our Agreement, it is uncertain if this will be sustainable given the continued staffing issues and turmoil at the Sheriff's Office.

Public safety is of utmost importance to our community. The City Council has always held high standards in the relationship with the Sheriff's Office. The findings that were sustained in the Report do not reflect the standards that our community wants in their law enforcement personnel. As a result, it is the City Council's desire to approve a vote of no confidence in Sheriff Corpus and a call for her to resign from the position.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to the City Council include:

1. Adopt a Resolution stating the City Council's position of No Confidence in Sheriff Christina Corpus and calling on Sheriff Corpus to resign; or
2. Do not adopt a Resolution; or
3. Provide staff with alternative direction.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca Mendenhall, Administrative Services Director

Approved for submission by:



Jeff Maltbie, City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution