

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION: A) RECEIVING RECOMMENDATION FROM SAN MATEO COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER JOHN KEENE TO REMOVE SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS FROM OFFICE FOR CAUSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 412.5 OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CHARTER; SUSTAINING THE RECOMMENDATION; AND MAKING A FINAL DECISION, SUBJECT TO APPEAL, TO REMOVE SHERIFF CORPUS FROM OFFICE FOR CAUSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 412.5 OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CHARTER; AND B) DECLARING THAT THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE AND ITS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, THE RECOMMENDATION FROM CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER KEENE, AND THIS RESOLUTION COLLECTIVELY CONSTITUTE THE BOARD'S FINAL NOTICE OF DECISION TO REMOVE SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS FOR CAUSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 412.5 OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CHARTER (FINAL NOTICE OF DECISION) AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PROVIDE SHERIFF CORPUS THE FINAL NOTICE OF DECISION; AND C) PROVIDING SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS ALL NOTICES REQUIRED BY THE ADOPTED REMOVAL PROCEDURES; AND D) APPROVING THE LIST OF THREE NEUTRAL HEARING OFFICERS TO PRESIDE OVER A REMOVAL HEARING PURSUANT TO THE ADOPTED REMOVAL PROCEDURES, IN THE EVENT THAT SHERIFF CORPUS APPEALS THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE AND REQUESTS A REMOVAL HEARING, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PROVIDE THE SHERIFF AND COUNTY (THROUGH KEKER, VAN NEST & PETERS, LLP) THE LIST OF THREE NEUTRAL HEARING OFFICERS

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2025, the County held a Special Election on Countywide Measure A to amend the San Mateo County Charter to add Section 412.5 to grant the Board of Supervisors authority, until December 31, 2028, to remove an elected sheriff for certain enumerated causes ("Charter Amendment"); and

WHEREAS, the Charter Amendment was approved by the electorate and, pursuant to Elections Code Section 9122, the Charter Amendment took effect on April 18, 2025, 10 days after the certified election results for Measure A were approved by this Board; and

WHEREAS, Section 412.5.c. of the San Mateo County Charter now states that the Board “may provide for procedures by which a removal proceeding pursuant to this Section 412.5 shall be conducted” and the Board has adopted such procedures (“Removal Procedures”); and

WHEREAS, the law firm Keker, Van Nest & Peters, LLP conducted an independent investigation of allegations of misconduct against Sheriff Christina Corpus and drafted a Proposed Notice of Intent to Remove Sheriff Christina Corpus that constitutes a written statement of alleged grounds for removal as required by Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter and that complies with sub-Sections I(1) and (2) of the Removal Procedures, but the Proposed Notice of Intent to Remove has not been made public due to the Sheriff’s objection; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2025, this Board, in Resolution No. 081187, adopted and approved the issuance of the written Notice of Intent to Remove Sheriff Christina for cause (the “NOI”), initiated a process to remove Sheriff Christina Corpus from office pursuant to Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter, and directed staff to provide Sheriff Christina Corpus a copy of the NOI and all of its supporting documents, which staff did; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-Removal Conference required under the Removal Procedures occurred on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, before San Mateo County Chief Probation Officer Keene (“Pre-Removal Conference”); and

WHEREAS, at the Pre-Removal Conference, Chief Keene considered the NOI and its supporting materials and gave the Sheriff the opportunity to be heard and considered any information provided by the Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, Chief Keene has issued a written recommendation to the Board that the Board approve and adopt the NOI and move forward with the proposed removal action

(the “Recommendation”), which Recommendation has been reviewed by the Board in Closed Session because the Sheriff previously objected to the release of the contents of the NOI; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered Chief Keene’s Recommendation and has decided to sustain the Recommendation to remove the Sheriff from office for cause pursuant to Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Removal Procedures, Carol Vendrillo, David Hart, and Hon. James Emerson (Ret.) have been identified as potential neutral hearing officers available to preside over a Removal Hearing in August 2025 and each of these potential neutral hearing officers has experience in public safety officer disciplinary matters, and one of them is a retired judge, and this Board has considered and approves each of these potential hearing neutral officers to preside over a Removal Hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board receives the Recommendation from the Pre-Removal Conference to remove Sheriff Christina Corpus from office for cause pursuant to Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter, which Recommendation this Board has reviewed and considered; sustains the Recommendation; and makes the final decision, subject to the Sheriff’s right to appeal via a Removal Hearing, to remove Sheriff Corpus from office for cause pursuant to Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter, specifically Section 412.5(b)(1) (violation of any law related to the performance of a Sheriff’s duties), Section 412.5(b)(2) (flagrant or repeated neglect of a Sheriff’s duties as defined by law), and Section 415.5(b)(5) (obstruction, as defined in federal, State, or local law applicable to a Sheriff, of any investigation into the conduct of a Sheriff and/or the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office by any governmental agency (including the County of San Mateo, office, or commission with jurisdiction to conduct such investigation)).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NOI and its supporting materials, which have been provided to the Sheriff, the Recommendation from the Pre-Removal Conference, and this Resolution collectively constitute the Board's Final Notice of Decision to remove Sheriff Christina Corpus from office for cause pursuant to Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter ("Final Notice of Decision"), and staff is directed to provide the Sheriff the Final Notice of Decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby provides Sheriff Christina Corpus the following notices required by Section I.4 of the adopted Removal Procedures:

(1) The specific grounds enumerated in Section 412.5 of the San Mateo County Charter that the Board has determined constitute the grounds to remove the Sheriff are set forth in the NOI and its supporting materials, which are incorporated by reference;

(2) The Sheriff has the right to appeal the Board's Final Notice of Decision and request an appeal hearing ("Removal Hearing") before a Hearing Officer;

(3) That to exercise the right to appeal and receive a Removal Hearing, the Sheriff must provide written notice requesting a Removal Hearing to the Assistant Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors (presently, Sukhmani Purewal and Sherry Golestan), at spurewal@smcgov.org and sgolestan@smcgov.org, within five (5) days of receiving the Final Notice of Decision; that the Sheriff must include in the request for a Removal Hearing a detailed statement of the facts and grounds for appealing the Final Notice of Decision; and that the Sheriff will be barred from raising any bases for appeal not contained therein;

(4) That if the Sheriff fails to timely exercise the right to appeal, the Sheriff will be deemed to have waived the right to appeal and the Board's decision will be final and binding;

(5) That if the Sheriff exercises the right to appeal, the Removal Hearing will be open to the public; unless the Sheriff, within five (5) days of receiving the Final Notice of Decision, formally objects, in the Sheriff's written request for an appeal, to an open hearing and requests a closed hearing; failure to timely object will result in the Removal Hearing being open to the public, and the Sheriff will be deemed to have waived any right to confidentiality that may exist in any documents presented at the open Removal Hearing;

(6) That the Board will propose to the Sheriff a list of at least three (3) neutral Hearing Officers, with experience in public safety officer disciplinary matters, available to timely preside over the Removal Hearing, with a preference that such Hearing Officer who otherwise meets these criteria be a retired judge;

(7) That at the conclusion of the Removal Hearing, the Hearing Officer will prepare and submit an advisory opinion to the Board; and

(8) That upon receipt and consideration of the Hearing Officer's advisory opinion, the Board will make the Final Post-Hearing Decision for Removal of the Sheriff, with at least a four-fifths vote required to remove the Sheriff, and the Board's decision will be final and binding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to the Removal Procedures, the Board approves Carol Vendrillo, David Hart, and Hon. James Emerson (Ret.) as the list of potential neutral hearing officers to preside over the Removal Hearing, in the event that Sheriff Corpus appeals the Board's decision to remove her from office and requests a Removal Hearing, and the Board directs staff to provide the Sheriff and the County (through Kecker, Van Nest & Peters, LLP) the list of these three neutral hearing officers.

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