

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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**RESOLUTION: A) STATING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' POSITION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN SHERIFF CHRISTINA CORPUS; AND B) CALLING ON SHERIFF CORPUS TO RESIGN; AND C) DIRECTING STAFF TO TRANSMIT THE REPORT OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION PREPARED BY JUDGE LADORIS CORDELL TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; AND D) DIRECTING STAFF TO TRANSMIT THE REPORT OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY; AND E) AFFIRMING AUTHORIZATION OF RELEASE OF THE REPORT OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION; AND F) DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE BEFORE THE SAN MATEO COUNTY VOTERS AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY CHARTER TO ALLOW REMOVAL OF THE SHERIFF BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UPON A FINDING OF GOOD CAUSE**

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

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2.14 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code ("Ordinance Code") provides, among other things, that anyone who believes that a County employee or officer has engaged in improper governmental activity should file a report with the designated County office; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2.14 of the Ordinance Code further provides that upon receipt of such a complaint, the County shall investigate it; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2.14 of the Ordinance Code also provides that any retaliation or reprisal by any County officer or employee against any complainant or informant in connection with a complaint submitted pursuant to Chapter 2.14 of the Ordinance Code is strictly prohibited; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 2.14 of the Ordinance Code mandates that, at the conclusion of the investigation, the Board of Supervisors and other County leaders will take necessary steps to address improper governmental activity, including any necessary systemic changes to minimize or prevent reoccurrence of any improper activity; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, the County received many complaints alleging improper governmental activity, including, among other things, claims of harassment and mistreatment of, and retaliation against, employees of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff's Office") by Victor Aenlle, who was appointed by San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus as the Executive Director of Administrative Services ("Executive Director") in the Sheriff's Office; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Attorney retained Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge LaDoris H. Cordell (Ret.) to conduct an independent fact-finding investigation into these complaints and concerns and, over the course of the investigation, additional matters regarding the Sheriff's Office were identified and included in the scope of the investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, between July 2024 and November 2024, Judge Cordell undertook a painstaking and detailed independent investigation, interviewing forty current and past civilian and sworn employees of the Sheriff's Office and reviewing a significant volume of documentary evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Cordell recently completed her investigation and she has prepared a detailed report of independent investigation ("Report of Independent Investigation"), which each member of this Board of Supervisors has reviewed, and the

Report of Independent Investigation is incorporated by reference into this Resolution and, in light of the seriousness and significance of Judge Cordell's findings, this Board of Supervisors confirms that it is appropriate to release the Report of Independent Investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, among Judge Cordell's findings set forth in the Report of Independent Investigation is that Mr. Aenlle and San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus, despite their denials, have a personal relationship beyond mere friendship and that, in fact, the evidence establishes that they have had an intimate relationship, and that Sheriff Corpus' actions in hiring, directly supervising and recommending pay increases for Mr. Aenlle give rise to a conflict of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the findings in the Report of Independent Investigation include that Sheriff Corpus and her Executive Team have engaged in retaliation and intimidation, including against employees who participated in an investigation authorized pursuant to Chapter 2.14 of the Ordinance Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Cordell finds in the Report of Independent Investigation that Mr. Aenlle exceeded and/or abused his authority with the approval of Sheriff Corpus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report of Independent Investigation sets forth Judge Cordell's finding that Sheriff Corpus has uttered and texted racial and homophobic slurs in the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Cordell sets forth her finding, in the Report of Independent Investigation, that the firing of Assistant Sheriff Ryan Monaghan was in retaliation for his participation in the independent investigation that Judge Cordell was conducting; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Cordell finds that under current leadership, the Sheriff's Office harbors a hostile, retaliatory, and abusive work environment, leaving the office's employees severely demoralized and Judge Cordell also notes that since Sheriff Corpus took office in January 2023, at least 106 sworn staff, from Correctional Officer up to the rank of Undersheriff, have left the agency and approximately half of these individuals were not eligible to retire and she further notes that the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff's Association overwhelmingly adopted a no confidence motion; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Cordell concludes in the Independent Report of Investigation by stating that "lies, secrecy, intimidation, retaliation, conflicts of interest, and abuse of authority are the hallmarks of the Corpus administration," and she recommends that Sheriff Corpus step down and that Mr. Aenlle's employment with the Sheriff's Office be terminated immediately and Judge Cordell states that "nothing short of new leadership can save this organization;" and

**WHEREAS**, there has been an alarming turnover in senior leadership staff in the Sheriff's Office, with numerous highly regarded senior leaders, including many selected by Sheriff Corpus either resigning or being forced out of or reassigned from their positions; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Supervisors has deep concerns about the lack of candor and collaboration demonstrated by Sheriff Corpus and her leadership team with this Board, the County Executive's Office, and other County departments; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the foregoing and the other matters set forth in the Independent Report of Investigation, this Board has lost confidence in Sheriff Corpus and her leadership team and this Board agrees with Judge Cordell that a change in

leadership is needed at the Sheriff's Office to save the organization and to protect public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED**, that the Board of Supervisors sets forth its position of "no confidence" in Sheriff Corpus and her executive leadership team and, in the interest of public safety and to protect the Sheriff's Office from further decline, this Board of Supervisors calls upon Sheriff Corpus to immediately resign her position.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive shall cause a copy of the Report of Independent Investigation to be transmitted to the California Attorney General and to the San Mateo County District Attorney, along with a request that those offices take appropriate action related to the report.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive shall cause a copy of the Report of Independent Investigation to be transmitted to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive shall cause a copy of the Report of Independent Investigation to be transmitted to all local government agencies in San Mateo County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board affirms its action in authorizing release of the Report of Independent Investigation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Executive and the County Attorney are directed to prepare and bring to this Board for consideration an ordinance that would place before the voters of San Mateo County an amendment to the San Mateo County Charter to authorize the Board of Supervisors, on a 4/5ths vote, to

remove the County Sheriff for good cause, including, but not limited to, violation of laws, policies or procedures related to the Sheriff's duties; repeated neglect of duties; misuse of public funds or property; obstruction of or attempts to obstruct an investigation into the department's conduct; or other conduct unbecoming an elected official.

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