



SHERIFF

CHRISTINA CORPUS

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The Best Oversight is Insight

I have the honor of leading an office of women and men dedicated to serving over 764,000 residents, thousands of businesses, commuters, and daily visitors. Since taking office in January of this year, I have been full steam ahead in our efforts to be deeply invested in all of our diverse communities. I enjoy meeting and hearing from so many residents in the communities we serve. I answer questions and concerns, regardless of differing points of view, at any time, from anyone.

As a Constitutional Officer, I am accountable to the voters. In the 23 years I have served in the Sheriff's Office, I have dedicated myself to finding ways to serve people beyond our initial contact. I love our county and care deeply for it.

Once in office, I immediately began the process of creating CARE (Community Advisors for Responsible Engagement) in the North, South, and Coastside areas of the County. CARE already has 49 volunteers from all different perspectives who are dedicated to responsible community engagement. Everyone who applied, regardless of how they felt about law enforcement, was welcome and accepted. We meet quarterly to have robust discussions and bring fresh perspectives regarding issues such as capturing data, mental health, operations, equitable policing, homelessness, and crime trends. CARE was not intended to replace any "oversight" mechanisms, rather, it was meant to be a safe place where all are welcome and given a chance to ask questions, provide input, and offer recommendations to the Sheriff's Office. Additionally, I share how we do things and why we do things.

Rather than focus on what we find troublesome about some forms of oversight, I want the community to know what we do support and what we already are doing without any need for formal, ineffective, and costly bureaucratic layers. The estimated costs associated with oversight exceed \$3.2 million, hindering the programs and resources available to the communities we serve.

Beyond the key concepts of transparency, community engagement, and accountability (all of which I support), this is what I want you, our community, to know:

- I believe that the profession of policing needs change. Change must come from within, and change must be led from the top and reflect input from the communities we serve. Our vision at the Sheriff's Office is a world where all humanity is valued and respected. Where everyone is heard, and everyone is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. It is my inherent duty to you to lead that effort, not just for our community but for our profession. The profession of policing needs change, and it is my intention for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office to be a model for others to follow.
- The path forward for modern policing requires culture change and instilling a culture where our purpose goes beyond just the enforcement of laws. More importantly, our purpose is to protect the vulnerable from harm and do so with compassion, dignity, and respect. We cannot compromise on the safety of our communities.
- I support caring community members' ability to be heard, that they have a venue like CARE to ask me anything and be given an honest answer. It is my hope that they understand not just **what** we do, but also **how** and **why** we do it. *I am open to creating and fostering open lines of communication and accountability with the community we serve.*
- Like many other agencies in the Bay Area and across the country, staffing and retaining personnel present significant challenges. Like many other agencies across the U.S., we are in the midst of a staffing crisis. As of today, we are short 96 deputies. It is only through the incredible efforts, sacrifices, and sense of duty of our personnel that we are able to continue to provide excellent services throughout the county.
- In researching oversight models throughout the country and accessing data from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), I was not presented with a successful model of oversight that benefits the community and ensures public safety. Agencies in the Bay Area that have oversight models suffer an added burden when trying to hire the best candidates, all while dealing with

increased crime rates and exponential added costs when reacting to demands for oversight.

- I want to enhance resources to engage with the community and integrate feedback into meaningful changes. I look forward to working with the County to increase dedicated resources for the community to ensure their voice and perspectives are heard.
- Insight in modern policing is gained through communication, input, compassion, and caring – not oversight. A culture supported by those values embraces community at a deeper level.

As your elected Sheriff, I leave you with our mission statement that inspires what we do and why we do it:

As stewards of our community, we envision a world where all humanity is valued and respected. We recognize our role as leaders in this effort and commit to seeking creative and effective ways to work with and listen to the needs of our residents, businesses, and stakeholders. We do this with the passion to preserve safety for all who live, visit, or work in San Mateo County.

The women and men I lead in this organization choose to serve you and provide a sense of security, which is what we will continue to do.

In service to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Corpus', written in a cursive style.

Christina Corpus
Sheriff