



SHERIFF

CHRISTINA CORPUS

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November 26, 2024

A letter to the employees of the Sheriff's Office and the San Mateo County community:

Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors released the Cordell Report at a press conference without affording me the opportunity to respond to or address its findings in advance. Since then, we have witnessed an unprecedented and deeply polarizing series of events—at a time when collaboration and unity are more critical than ever.

As your elected Sheriff, I am entrusted with leading the Sheriff's Office through both progress and adversity. I do not shy away from challenges, nor do I falter in my commitment to the women and men of this organization and the residents of San Mateo County. While these past weeks have been tough, I remain committed to fulfilling the responsibilities I swore to uphold.

I recognize the uncertainty this situation has caused among the two groups I serve: the dedicated employees of the Sheriff's Office and the people of our County. Despite the personal toll, my focus remains on the work ahead and the safety of the residents. Together, we set out to reform an institution once marred by past scandals and costly discrimination litigation. I am committed to modernizing law enforcement practices, strengthening recruitment efforts to seek people with good hearts, continuing to retain valuable employees, and enhancing the quality of life for those who serve and are served by this Office. These reforms were bound to challenge the status quo, and bring challenges like we are experiencing, but the reforms are critical for the long-term integrity and effectiveness of our mission and the future of this Office.

The progress we have made in a short time has been remarkable. We have implemented initiatives to improve safety in our correctional facilities, support incarcerated persons with the goal of reducing recidivism, and address systemic issues. This work reflects a shared vision of transformation—one that continues to inspire me daily.

I am moving forward with a restructured leadership team. Assistant Sheriffs, together with Undersheriff Dan Perea, will lead with a renewed focus on restoring internal and external relationships while driving forward our strategic initiatives. I have every confidence in the new leadership team to oversee our daily operations and foster a culture of accountability and respect.

Calls for my resignation not only undermine the will of the voters but also pose a threat to the independence of this Office—a cornerstone of our democracy. I remain focused in my commitment to reform, transparency, and collaboration—principles that should unite us in the pursuit of better governance. The allegations against me deserve a fair and impartial review, and I urge the Board of Supervisors to honor the principles of due process and uphold the



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integrity of the county charter, rather than pursuing amendments that erode democratic accountability.

Every day, I am guided by a singular question: *What can I do to make San Mateo County safer and stronger for all?* Resigning from my position or relinquishing the independence of this Office is not the answer. Such actions would set a dangerous precedent, jeopardizing the progress we've made and the meaningful change our voters entrusted me to deliver. My focus remains unwavering—on upholding the mission of this Office and preserving the trust of those we serve.

This moment challenges not only my leadership but the independence and integrity of this Office. I will not step down, nor will I allow this institution to be politicized or influenced by special interests. Instead, I will continue to advocate for the reforms we have undertaken and the progress we are determined to achieve.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we navigate these challenges together.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cc", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sheriff Christina Corpus