



Fixin' San Mateo County (FxSMC)

**Presentation to
North Fair Oaks Council
August 25, 2022**

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Presenters

- Becca Kieler, NFO resident
- Jim Lawrence, FxSMC Chair
- Trena Patton, FxSMC Outreach Workgroup Lead
- Paul Bocanegra, Community Member

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Who We Are

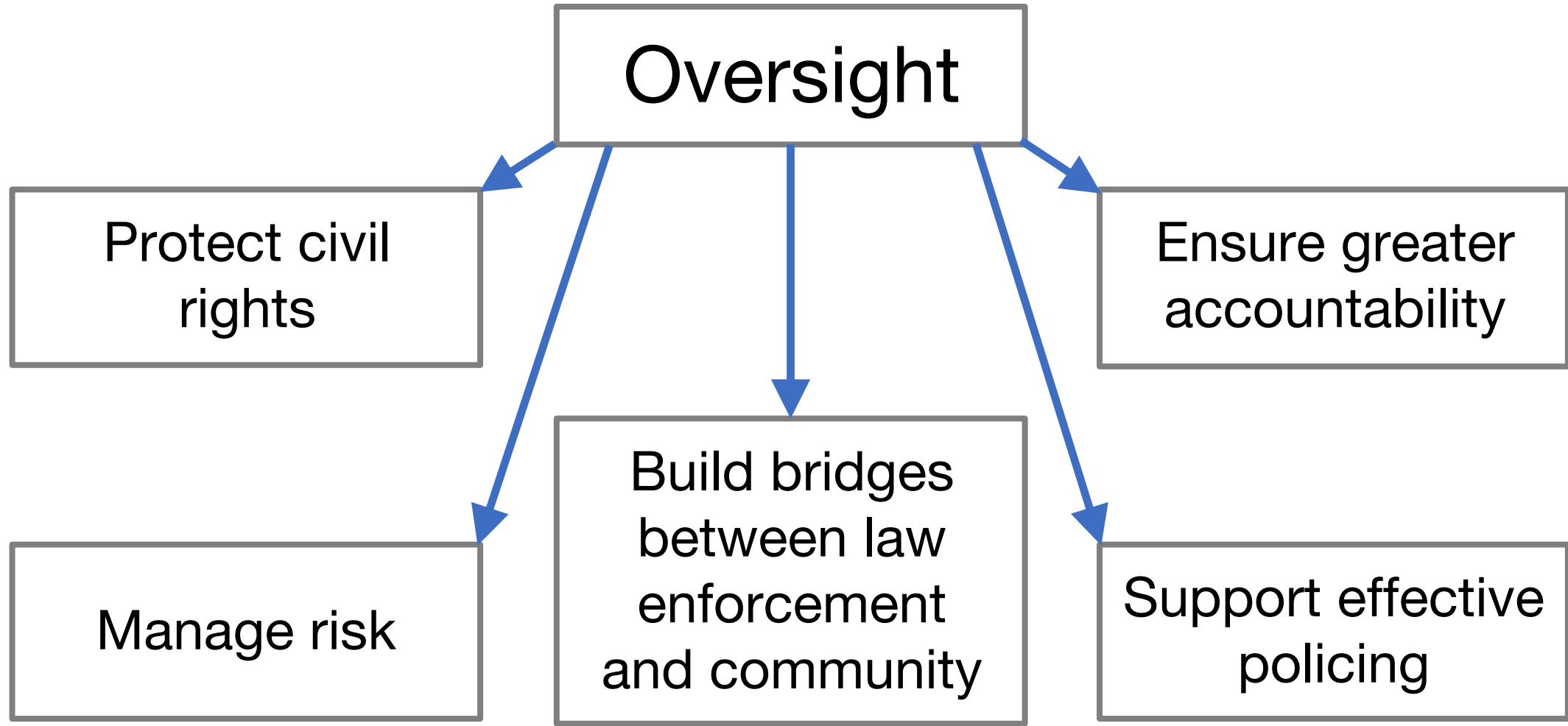
- Grassroots, founded by local activists in May 2021
 - 50 active volunteers, 250 on mailing list
- Incorporated as a 501(c)4 in November 2021
- Endorsed by all 5 fed/state electeds, 13 Mayors/
former Mayors, and dozens of elected and
appointed community leaders
- Support Sheriff Office in its mission to protect and
serve

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Why We Need Oversight





Goal and Strategy

Goal

Establish an effective community-based Sheriff Oversight Board and Inspector General, both with subpoena power, to address resident complaints, investigate issues, and make policy and practice recommendations

Strategy

Develop and roll out a robust community based campaign to persuade the Board of Supervisors to use their legislative authority to pass an [ordinance](#)



People of Color at Risk of Arrest

- From DOJ data:
 - Black people 9x more likely than White people to be arrested in San Mateo County than White people
 - Hispanic people 2x likely than White people to be arrested here as White people
- From Sheriff [data portal](#):
 - July-Sept 2021
 - Hispanic 25% of population, 49% of arrests
 - Black 2% of population, 13% of arrests
 - White 36% of population, 29% of arrests
 - Jan-Mar 2022
 - Hispanic 25% of population, 45% of arrests
 - Black 2% of population, 13% of arrests
 - White 36% of population, 30% of arrests



People of Color At Risk of Death

- Officers in San Mateo County used tasers to kill 3 unarmed People of Color (POC) in 2018
- Despite 19 use-of-force deaths, NO officers in our county have been charged during DA Wagstaffe's tenure
- In the 5-county Bay Area, although Black people are <7% of our population; they are 27% of people killed by police, 2015-2020

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Immigrants Risked Deportation

(On 11/9/2021, Sheriff announced he would stop transfers to ICE.)

Transfers to ICE (immigration) by County, 2020:

Marin	0
Napa	0
San Francisco	0
Santa Clara	0
Sonoma	0
Solano	1
Alameda	8
Outlier → San Mateo	26

San Mateo County turned over directly from jail to ICE more than 100 people after the California Values Act passed in 2017



Civilian Oversight Facts

- 220 cities and counties nationally have civilian oversight
- 25 cities/counties are in California including the following counties:

Los Angeles	San Francisco
Sacramento	Santa Clara
San Diego	Sonoma

State law AB1185 gives subpoena power to boards & inspectors general but does not create these boards/offices



What Civilian Oversight Looks Like

- Community-based civilian Oversight Board
- Professional Inspector General
- Both appointed by County Board of Supervisors
- Both with subpoena power



Oversight Board Composition & Duties

- 11 community members - impartial, knowledgeable, committed; diverse geographically and life experience
- Monthly public meetings
- Community outreach/listening
- Receive and investigate complaints and incidents
- Subpoena power
- Review and recommend policies/public reports



Inspector General

- Trained professional
- Investigate complaints from civilians and whistleblowers
- Investigate incidents of force including:
 - excessive force
 - deaths in custody
 - racial profiling trends
- Subpoena power
- Review and recommend policies/public reports

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Must Haves

- Independent
- Strong subpoena power
- Oversight board membership reflects the diversity of the community
- Consistent support from Board of Supervisors
- Adequate funding
- Ability to take complaints directly from residents
- Access to data and records



Success Stories

Denver

- Use of force incidents during arrests dropped 21 percent
- Violent crime rate fell 8 percent after monitor's office launched
- Strong support by politicians and government leaders

New Orleans

- Formation of Use of Force Review Board
- Release bodycam footage of officer shootings w/in 10 days
- Officer-involved shootings down from 20 in 2012 to 9 in 2019

Newark, NJ

- Community engagement
- Peaceful nature of Newark's protests over Floyd's death
- Required de-escalation training



Even With Problems, Oversight Has Impact

Sacramento County

- Sheriff blocking of Inspector General entering jail helped to motivate passage of AB 1185

Santa Clara County

- Sheriff's resistance to cooperating with oversight led to felony charges

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Limits of Civilian Oversight

- Oversight is a necessary component, but not a complete solution

CAN PROVIDE	CANNOT PROVIDE
Create transparency and accountability through public reports to Supervisors and Sheriff	Set Sheriff or Board of Supervisor policy or discipline/fire deputies



Where Do We Go Now?

- Outreach to City Councils, community groups, labor, business, and faith community to educate and build support
- Endorsements from City Council members and other elected officials
- Work with Board of Supervisors and Sheriff-Elect to finalize an ordinance for Board to adopt



Action Steps

NFO Council [letter of support](#)
and/or [resolution of support](#) to the
Board of Supervisors