



City Council AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 11/12/2020

AGENDA OF: 11/24/2020

DEPARTMENT: Police

SUBJECT: Discriminatory Reports to Law Enforcement Ordinance (PD)

RECOMMENDATION: Introduce for publication an ordinance adding Chapter 9.86, the Discriminatory Reports to Law Enforcement, to the Santa Cruz Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently passed legislation they call the "CAREN Act" (Caution Against Racially Exploitative Non-Emergencies), primarily in order to discourage racially motivated reports to law enforcement.

DISCUSSION: The attached ordinance, here entitled the Discriminatory Reports to Law Enforcement Ordinance, is modeled after the CAREN Act. It makes discriminatory police reports unlawful, and it contemplates restitution for those impacted by discriminatory calls.

The goal of this type of legislation is to this to allow individuals who have been reported to law enforcement for unfair and unnecessary reasons to seek justice and restitution, and it also is intended to motivate people who contact law enforcement to consider the reasons they are making the report. The legislation is not intended to discourage individuals from contacting law enforcement when they are facing real danger or desire to report a crime.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

Prepared/Submitted By:
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Approved By:
Martin Bernal
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ORDINANCE.DOCX