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Message from the Transit Security Advisory Committee Chairperson

Honorable Members of the California State Legislature,

The Transit Security Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) is a volunteer, community-led advisory committee that works to ensure that Assembly Bill (AB) 730 (Quirk, 2017) is implemented as intended. One of the requirements of AB 730 is to provide an annual report from BART to the Legislature regarding prohibition order statistics and crimes of violence.

Our work includes examining BART's monthly prohibition order statistics, making findings related to the issuance of prohibition orders such as use of force involved, disproportionately affected populations, as well as proposing ways BART can effectively promote the safety and security of riders and their employees.

To accomplish this, over the past year, we implemented objectives within our strategic plan. A flexible and adaptive strategic plan will assist us in establishing priorities and a roadmap for achieving our goals over the next two years and beyond.

Last year, I mentioned our effort to better evaluate the procedures in which prohibition orders are enforced. To that end, we received multiple presentations from the BART Police Department and the Independent Police Auditor, so we can become more knowledgeable in this area. As a result, we revised BPD's reporting template and made substantive recommendations on how to update the prohibition order document which has been completed and in use.

We also discussed conducting community outreach which we did by attending a Women in Law Enforcement event at Merritt College, and by having a table with Crisis Intervention Specialists and the Community Policing Unit at two homeless veteran resource fairs in Oakland. This assists them in building relationships with those who may have psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities in the event they encounter them while on shift.

Further, we mentioned making recommendations for training to the five categories of BART employees. To accomplish this we had multiple presentations regarding the education and training they receive so we can make an informed decision on recommendations we intend to make that are in progress. We intend to build on the work we've done so far and look forward to sharing with you more recommendations and accomplishments in the future.

Kind regards,

Omar Farmer

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