

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 19, 2026

To: BART Police Civilian Review Board (BPCRB)

From: Kevin Franklin, Chief of Police *KF CI*

Subject: Duty Handgun Replacement

Beginning in 2017, the BART Police Department transitioned from the Sig Sauer P226 DAK to the Sig Sauer P320 duty pistol. The P320 was selected for its modular design, modern ergonomics, and widespread adoption by the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies at the time. At this time, the Department is evaluating the replacement of the existing duty handgun based on maintenance costs, reliability issues, and restrictions recently placed on using the Sig P320 at some training facilities used by BART.

The Department is evaluating the following duty weapon platforms: Glock 45/47, Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0, Walther PDP Professional, Springfield Armory Echelon, or upgrading to the current version of the SIG Sauer P320 (M17/M18 family). Each platform is being evaluated based on safety features, ergonomics, reliability, duty adoption, modularity, maintenance requirements, and cost. The replacement pistol would include installation of a red dot sight system (RDS) on the selected platform. RDS change officer's focal point from the pistol front sight to the location where the officer is aiming so that officers maintain their focus on the potential threat rather than switching to their front sight. This allows officers to better ascertain whether their target is still a threat or not. RDS are more accurate for the average shooter as the requirement to have good "Sight Alignment" between the front and rear sight is no longer necessary. A study conducted by the military found a 66% increase in accuracy once soldiers had completed their initial RDS training and transitioned to the RDS. RDS are also consistently better in low light conditions such as we have in an underground transit environment. BPD currently authorizes the use of a RDS as an optional employee-provided accessory for a duty-firearm. This equipment upgrade will make the use of a RDS universal for the department issued duty-handgun. Per policy, BART Police Officers may optionally carry a personally owned firearm, provided it meets the same safety and performance standards as department-issued duty weapons. All personally owned firearms must be inspected by a department range instructor and receive approval before being authorized for duty use.

For background information, the Glock and Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 are widely used by domestic law enforcement agencies. The Walther PDP and Springfield Echelon are newer platforms with limited adoption among law enforcement. The SIG Sauer P320 has been a reliable

handgun for our agency, but there are restrictions limiting use at some training facilities. Most evaluated platforms feature a similar grip angle and interchangeable grip components, allowing officers to maintain consistent ergonomics and adjustability between individual employees. Platforms vary in their level of modularity, local manufacturer support, and availability of parts, training, and armorer resources.

Estimated per-unit costs ranged from approximately \$750 to \$900, depending on the platform and configuration.

The BART Police Department initiated this evaluation to ensure its duty weapon platform meets the highest standards for safety, reliability, and operational effectiveness. The evaluation process reflects the Department's commitment to officer and public safety, as well as responsible equipment selection. The Department will continue its assessment and follow established procurement and training procedures before making any final decision on a future duty weapon platform. I welcome any questions or feedback on the process.