

For Immediate Release
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Media Contact: David Low, (408) 535-4840 or david.low@sanjoseca.gov

Note: Mayor Liccardo, Members of the City Council and Mr. Zisser will be available for interview during a brief media availability taking place at 1:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room on the 18th floor. Members of the IPA Recruitment Community Advisory Panel have also been invited to attend. Please contact David or Ahmad if you'd like to attend the media availability or if you'd like to schedule a separate interview.

Mayor and City Council Appoint Aaron Zisser as San José's New Independent Police Auditor

San José, Calif. – Today, Mayor Sam Liccardo announced the City Council's appointment of Aaron B. Zisser as San José's new Independent Police Auditor.

"From his five-and-a-half years at the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to his recent work with the Santa Clara County's Blue Ribbon Commission on Jails, Aaron brings both a breadth of experience and a familiarity with our local community," said Mayor Liccardo. "I look forward to working with him, and our hard-working officers, to ensure that the SJPD remains the most professional and trusted department in the country."

A South Bay native, Zisser comes to San José with vast and diverse experience in police oversight, criminal justice reform and civil rights. In particular, Zisser served as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division from 2009 to 2015. During his tenure at the Justice Department, he led a number of complex investigations and projects that dealt with issues ranging from mental health services, use of force and the "school-to-prison pipeline."

Since returning to the Bay Area in early 2015, Zisser has served as a consultant on several local criminal justice reform and oversight projects. These projects included work for the recent Blue Ribbon Commission on Santa Clara County Jails, the San Francisco Office of Citizen Complaints and BART's Independent Police Oversight System.

Zisser earned a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center and holds a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently licensed to practice law in the states of California and New York. Zisser also plans to relocate to the South Bay with his wife Beckie and two young boys, Calev and Adlai.

"San José has a unique culture of openness and inclusiveness, which was readily apparent throughout the IPA selection process and my many discussions with passionate city and community leaders, our forward-thinking Police Chief, Eddie Garcia, and a highly competent IPA staff," said Zisser. "It's been so inspiring to come back to San José and I am certainly humbled by the privilege of following Judge Cordell and Walter Katz. I look forward to having further conversations with engaged community members and committed police officers who have invaluable first-hand insights."

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Under San José's City Charter, the Independent Police Auditor is appointed by the City Council and is responsible for:

- Reviewing San José Police Department investigations of complaints against police officers to determine if the investigation was complete, thorough, objective and fair.
- Making recommendations regarding Police Department policies and procedures based on the Independent Police Auditor's review of investigations of complaints against police officers.
- Conducting public outreach to educate the community on the role of the Independent Police Auditor and to assist the community with the process and procedures for investigation of complaints against police officers.

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