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Two San Diego Police Officers Appointed to State Boards for Policing Standards

NOMINATIONS HIGHLIGHT SDPD'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

SAN DIEGO - Highlighting their commitment to improving the future of law enforcement, two San Diego Police Department (SDPD) officers, Lieutenant Charles Lara and Sergeant Nicholas Nguyen, have been appointed to serve on State of California police boards as [announced Thursday by Governor Gavin Newsom](#).

"As Mayor, it is always a point of pride for me to see City employees being selected to help lead at the state level," Mayor Todd Gloria said. "I want to thank Governor Newsom for recognizing the caliber of officers we have in our San Diego Police Department to serve on these boards. I look forward to seeing Lt. Lara and Sgt. Nguyen continue to grow into these roles and with our department."

"The San Diego Police Department has leaders serving at every level who want to ensure the future of this profession is shaped with input from our region," Police Chief David Nisleit said. "Through their experiences with SDPD, I'm confident Lt. Lara and Sgt. Nguyen will be valued voices as members of these boards, bringing insight and fairness to difficult decisions. Congratulations and well-deserved honors for both."

Lieutenant Charles Lara has been appointed to the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board. Lt. Lara has served with SDPD since 1999 and has been serving in the rank of Lieutenant since 2011. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies and Politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Lt. Lara's unique experiences make him a qualified candidate for the appointment. In his time with SDPD, he has worked both as a sergeant and lieutenant in the Internal Affairs Unit, overseen department disclosures related to mandated local, state and federal legislation, assisted with compliance with the City of San Diego's Surveillance Ordinance, and taught topics statewide related to search and seizure, laws of arrest, emotional intelligence, and non-bias based policing and racial profiling.

The [Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board](#) was created by Senate Bill 2, known as the Police Decertification Act. The Board is comprised of 9 appointed members, with diverse experiences, including a current or former management level police officer with knowledge of internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings. The Board serves as an advisory body to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and reviews serious misconduct cases involving peace officers and makes recommendations for decertification to the Commission.

Sergeant Nicholas Nguyen has been appointed to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Nguyen has been a Police Sergeant at the San Diego Police Department since 2014, where he has served in several roles since 2005. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Riverside. Nguyen is the Founder and President of the First Responder Whiskey Society, Director of the San Diego Police Officers Association, Director of the San Diego Chapter of the Gary Sinise Foundation, and a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Sgt. Nguyen's appointment to the position requires Senate confirmation.

The [Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training \(POST\)](#) forms a balanced group of city and county administrators, law enforcement professionals, educators, and public members. The Governor appoints 15 of the Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for three-year overlapping terms. The Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Pro Tempore also each appoint one Commissioner. The Attorney General is an ex-officio member and serves as the 18th POST Commissioner.

The Commission meets four times a year to establish standards, regulations, and to give direction to POST staff.

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