



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE: April 15, 2021
TO: Honorable Members of the Audit Committee
FROM: Andy Hanau, City Auditor
SUBJECT: Performance Audit of SDPD's Data Analysis | Independent Data Reliability Assessment

The Office of the City Auditor conducted a [Performance Audit of the San Diego Police Department's Data Analysis](#) in accordance with our FY2020 Audit Work Plan. We issued this report on September 28, 2020 with a scope impairment resulting from limitations arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now been addressed.

The overall objective of this audit was to assess the reliability and completeness of data reported by SDPD. We were able to complete the majority of our audit, which found ways SDPD can better evaluate and improve its operations and improve its process for accepting and reporting citizen complaints. However, as part of its emergency operations procedures for the COVID-19 emergency, SDPD enacted physical security measures to restrict access of any non-essential personnel, including all non-SDPD personnel, to all SDPD locations. This resulted in a scope impairment to our audit as we could not go onsite and test the reliability of SDPD's data.

At the time, SDPD was in the process of transitioning to a new reporting standard with the FBI, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). As part of this transition, the FBI conducts data reliability testing to ensure submitting agencies provide reliable data. Therefore, in order to address the scope limitation caused by the pandemic, we recommended that SDPD either have a third-party—such as the FBI—complete its data reliability testing, or our office would conduct data reliability testing at a later time. To plan for the second possibility, OCA included follow-up testing on our FY2021 Audit Work Plan.

SDPD received its NIBRS certification in October 2020, with the FBI completing the required data reliability testing. This testing covered six months of data, which SDPD stated included 33,593 records. The FBI's testing included testing for system appropriateness, update capability, error rate, and statistical reasonability. The FBI requires agencies submit data with an error rate below 4%, and according to SDPD they achieved an error rate of less than half a percent with an acceptance rate of 99.58%.

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
600 B STREET, SUITE 1350 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
PHONE (619) 533-3165 • FAX (619) 533-3036

TO REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, OR ABUSE, CALL OUR FRAUD HOTLINE (866) 809-3500



We congratulate SDPD on obtaining testing results that verify a very low and acceptable data error rate, and we are closing our recommendation to have a third party complete data reliability testing as "Implemented."

We would like to thank staff from SDPD for their assistance and cooperation during our follow-up process. All their valuable time and efforts spent on providing us information to confirm the remediation of this scope impairment is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Hanau
City Auditor

cc: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable Members of the City Council
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott
Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer
David Nisleit, Chief of Police
Matthew Helm, Chief Compliance Officer
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Heather Ferbert, Chief Deputy City Attorney