

Dear Assembly/Senate Member,

The California State Legislature needs to authorize BART to implement citizen oversight this year. It is critical to act now. A delay until next year is unacceptable. As a representative of the people of the Bay Area, we need you to lead the effort to assure citizen oversight of the BART Police Department.

The citizen oversight model recently adopted by the BART Board of Directors is based on what members of the Bay Area community want. It incorporates the community's needs and the best elements of the various citizen oversight entities at police departments around the Bay Area. However, changes to state law are needed this year in order to move forward with the model that was developed locally with a lot of community input.

The community model of citizen oversight for BART Police has two major areas where legislative changes are required. The first area involves the creation of the position of independent police auditor. The auditor would be truly independent and report directly to the BART Board. This requires a legislative amendment to the BART Act. The second area requires changing the General Manager's authority to provide a role for the auditor, citizen board and the BART Board in the discipline process for members of the police department.

These legislative changes are needed before this year's legislative session ends. Please act now to reflect the needs of your constituents to have citizen oversight this year of the BART Police Department.

Sincerely,