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Contact:

David Low, Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
(408) 535-4840 or david.low@sanjoseca.gov

Mayor and City Council Appoint Walter Katz as San José's New Independent Police Auditor

San José, CA – Today, Mayor Sam Liccardo announced the City Council's appointment of Walter Katz as San José's fifth Independent Police Auditor.

"Walter is a remarkable individual with an impressive record in law enforcement oversight," said Mayor Liccardo. "The Council, community interview panelists and I were extremely impressed by his experience with complex use of force issues and his desire to innovate. Walter is going to be a tremendous asset to the City and San José residents"

Katz comes to San José with five years of experience providing oversight of municipal law enforcement agencies. Most recently, Katz served as a Deputy Inspector General for the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General, where he was tasked with monitoring the Sheriff's Department and played a key role in improving the department's procedures for disclosing use of force and discipline data.

Katz previously served as an attorney in the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review and as a law enforcement oversight consultant. He also spent more than 15 years as a public defender in a number of Southern California jurisdictions.

Katz earned a law degree from McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific. Earlier this year, his article *Enhancing Accountability and Trust with Independent Investigations of Police Lethal Force*, was published in the Harvard Law Review Forum.

"I'm honored and privileged to be appointed as San José's next Independent Police Auditor," said Katz. "I look forward to working with the diverse community that this office serves and making it more accessible to all of San José's residents."

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

- Reviewing San Jose 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.

Katz will begin his term as Independent Police Auditor on January 5, 2016.

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