THE SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



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Registrar of Voters Takes Action Against Monica Montgomery Steppe Following SDPOA Complaint

The San Diego Police Officers Association filed a complaint against Monica Montgomery Steppe for falsely claiming to have "reduced homicides by 50%" – homicides increased by 450% in her first year in office.

The Registrar of Voters removed the statement following an independent review and in accordance with state law requiring truthful and honest statements in official ballot materials.

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Police Officers Association (SDPOA) has taken decisive action by filing a formal complaint with the Registrar of Voters regarding a false candidate ballot statement. The statement, made by Monica Montgomery Steppe, claimed that she had "helped reduce homicides by 50% in her district." After thorough investigation and undeniable evidence, it has been proven that this statement was entirely false. In fact, the real numbers show during her first full year in office (2019), homicides INCREASED by 450%. Homicide rates in District 4 have tragically remained higher in every year of Montgomery Steppe's term compared to the last two years preceding her election in December of 2018.

Despite spending her entire Council tenure pushing failed public safety policies, Monica is now attempting to promote herself as a champion of public safety as she sets her sights on higher office. Like a typical politician, Monica's dishonest campaign talking points are at odds with her record.

Monica Montgomery Steppe's record on public safety is alarmingly weak. In June of 2021, Monica called for defunding the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) in the form of a 10 million reduction in the police budget and for the funding to be diverted to projects such as tree trimming and weed abatement. Monica has additionally wasted hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in an effort to pass radical abolish the police legislation (Protect Ordinance). During her tenure as the Public Safety Committee Chair for both the San Diego City Council and Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), homicides dramatically rose in our city parks and our transit system saw an increase in violent attacks on MTS employees.

We commend the Registrar of Voters for their swift action in response to our complaint. The false statement made by Monica Montgomery Steppe has been appropriately removed from the candidate statement, ensuring that voters are not misled by baseless claims. For media inquiries, please contact Stefanie Tellez at <u>editor@sdpoa.org</u> or 858-831-8536. President Jared Wilson media availability: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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About the San Diego Police Officers Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The San Diego Police Officers Association (SDPOA) is a professional labor organization representing the sworn members of the San Diego Police Department. The association works diligently to protect and promote the rights, wages, benefits, and working conditions of police officers, as well as advocate for public safety and the well-being of the San Diego community.