



Lena Tam, SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 18, 2023

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZE AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE SOPHIA MASON CASE AND THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Supervisors authorizes an independent investigation of the Sophia Mason case with a commitment to review best practices for conducting child welfare investigations within the Social Services Agency that may inform ongoing policies and practices.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

On April 3, 2023, a lawsuit was filed against the County of Alameda, alleging the wrongful death of Sophia Mason, an 8-year-old child who died in Merced County months after her last contact with the County of Alameda. The plaintiffs allege that the County failed to perform mandatory duties that may have contributed to the tragic death of Sophia Mason in Merced County.

Further, as part of the independent investigation, the Board commits to reviewing best practices for conducting child welfare investigations within the legal restraints that govern and limit the County's authority to act, with a goal that the Department of Children and Family Services will be informed by the outcome and revise its policies and practices to the extent warranted.

I respectfully request your support for an independent investigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lena L. Tam". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lena Tam
Alameda County Supervisor, Third District