



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUSTICE & COURAGE OVERSIGHT PANEL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY REFORM

August 20, 2012

In response to the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women’s request for a recommendation, the Justice and Courage Oversight Panel on Domestic Violence Policy Reform strongly supports the Ethics Commission’s determination that Ross Mirkarimi’s domestic violence offense constitutes official misconduct and falls below the ethical conduct and standards San Francisco expects of the Sheriff, a top law enforcement officer.

The Ethics Commission ruled that Ross Mirkarimi, who pled guilty to a domestic violence charge, committed official misconduct. Clearly, Ross Mirkarimi is unfit to serve as San Francisco’s Sheriff. The decision is now in the hands of the 11-member Board of Supervisors to carefully consider the evidence and facts.

The facts are: (1) Ross Mirkarimi pled guilty to the domestic violence-related charge of false imprisonment; (2) he is sentenced to three years of probation and required to attend a 52-week program for batterers; and (3) his court-supervised probation will span the majority of his term. Therefore, he is unfit to serve as the law enforcement agency leader overseeing programs that address domestic violence.

San Francisco’s approach to addressing domestic violence hinges on successful collaboration between all local law enforcement agencies, the Department on the Status of Women, and community-based service providers who, last year, provided 30,000 people with hotlines, emergency shelter, and legal assistance. This collaboration, built steadily over the past decade, has reduced domestic violence homicides in San Francisco by an astounding 80%.

Annually, the San Francisco Police Department receives about 4,000 cases of domestic violence. The Justice and Courage Oversight Panel is committed as ever to its critical mission of advancing domestic violence policy reform in San Francisco. Working in full collaborative partnership with all local law enforcement leaders and agencies remains integral to protecting and advancing the 80% decline in domestic violence homicide.

San Francisco’s families facing domestic violence deserve and demand the utmost integrity, confidence and trust in all law enforcement officials sworn to protect and serve the public’s safety.

We therefore strongly recommend that the Commission on the Status of Women urge the Board of Supervisors to remove Ross Mirkarimi from his position as Sheriff.