

1 **Motion to support Statement on Dolores Park Skateboarding Incident**

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

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5 See attached document [Statement]

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STATEMENT ON SFPD RESPONSE TO THE “DOLORES HILL BOMB” SKATE EVENT

The San Francisco Youth Commission is concerned by the disorderly event that occurred between the youth and police during the “Dolores Hill Bomb” event on July 8th, 2023. We urge a review by all City departments to determine best/better practices moving forward. Looking forward, we hope to foster an environment of collaboration between youth and the City to create safe spaces for events. Key to this will be the City, particularly the San Francisco Police Department, working to maintain positive relationships and trust with youth. Additionally, we encourage all youth to respect the shared space of our city and the safety of its residents.

On July 8th, 2023, a large gathering of young skateboarders held an unpermitted and unsanctioned “hill bomb”, where they skated at full speed down Dolores Street. SFPD attempted to prevent the event from taking place. As the event unfolded, SFPD witnessed fireworks and heard reports of vandalism. After a youth was arrested for spitting in the face of an officer, the crowd of skateboarders threw items including ignited fireworks, glass bottles, and other projectiles at officers. As a result, police declared an unlawful assembly and issued warnings for dispersal.

SFPD then detained and charged 81 minors and approximately 30 adults with multiple criminal offenses. Several youths who were arrested stated that their rights were violated in the process as they were not told what they were being detained for, and were not informed that they were under arrest by police officers. These arrests resulted in the youth and young adults being sat on the ground, with their hands zip-tied behind their backs, for more than five



hours. During this time they were unable to see or speak to their parents or guardians. Many were released after 2:00 AM leaving minors on the streets and without transportation. 79 of the 81 youths arrested had their charges dismissed within the week.

Many of the youth arrested stated that they were leaving the event area, as SFPD had instructed them to do so. Other youth arrested stated that they were not involved with the event at all. It appears that the SFPD chose to detain any and all youth and young adults who were in the area. Thus, the Youth Commission calls for a full review of how minors were detained and arrested.

Accountability needs to occur on both sides of this incident. Those who vandalized City property and created public safety risks produced a dangerous situation for residents, youth, and other members of the public. Anyone who assaulted police officers should be held accountable as well. The SFPD must also take accountability for its actions – including the possible violations of minors' rights and escalatory actions.

The Youth Commission urges the exploration of regulation and permitting process to allow for this event to occur in the future to ensure the safety of those participating in the festivities and surrounding neighborhood. The Youth Commission champions itself in representing youth voices in our City. Our responsibility is to the young people of San Francisco, and to advise the leaders of San Francisco on how best to meet the needs of youth. We are determined to work with our elected and appointed leaders, our City departments, and our community members to move forward to create positive and safe community events in San Francisco. Looking forward, we hope for our City and youth to do better—by working together.