



**Executive Directive 07-05**  
**Domestic Violence Safety and Accountability**

June 12, 2007

By virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Section 3.100 of the San Francisco Charter to provide administration and oversight of all departments and governmental units in the executive branch of the City and County of San Francisco, I do hereby issue this Executive Directive to become effective immediately:

*The City makes several findings about domestic violence response by criminal justice agencies. The Domestic Violence Safety and Accountability Audit, released in January 2007, details five overarching gaps in safety and accountability that bridge the City's criminal justice system response. The report presents a 1-to 5-year blueprint for change in the City's criminal justice domestic violence response to enhance the safety of all victims. I address key recommendations below.*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women Justice & Courage Oversight Panel shall include in its work overseeing the implementation of all recommendations related to the San Francisco Domestic Violence Victim Safety and Accountability Audit. I require all agencies to cooperate fully with the Oversight Panel. As a first step, I expect departments to respond to the Audit by specifying implementation strategies and timelines to the Justice & Courage Oversight Panel within the next two months.
2. Criminal justice agencies shall conclude a citywide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to codify inter- and intra-departmental responses to both domestic violence and stalking incidents within the City. Such an MOU would be developed in collaboration with community-based organizations to establish clear protocols to identify, investigate, and respond to domestic violence and stalking-related calls, making San Francisco a model for a community-wide domestic violence response.
3. The Police Department shall ensure that patrol officers receive a minimum of two hours of POST-certified stalking training, developed in collaboration with community-based agencies over the next year. The Audit Team saw numerous cases in which victims reported stalking that was not properly identified as such by law enforcement. Given the high correlation between stalking and lethality, it is imperative that stalking cases be correctly identified and investigated to enhance victim safety.
4. Criminal justice agencies shall fully support and participate in the Domestic Violence Response Cross-Training Institute. Through a partnership with the Blue Shield of California Foundation, the Department on the Status of Women has secured funding to provide highly interactive training on domestic violence and stalking to criminal justice personnel, based on recommendations generated from the Audit. I direct all relevant agencies to send personnel to attend this training.

5. The City Administrator's Office shall establish a list of centralized, high-quality interpretation vendors for all criminal justice agencies, including the Department of Emergency Management for non-emergency calls, the San Francisco Police Department for patrol and investigations, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and the Adult Probation Department. The 2005 U.S. Census survey shows that, 26 percent of San Franciscans speak an Asian Pacific Islander language, of these almost 60 percent speak English less than very well. Spanish speakers in the City represent 12 percent of the population, and almost 47 percent report not speaking English very well. The Audit found interpretation services for domestic abuse victims inconsistently available and of poor quality. In order to bolster victim safety for all, San Francisco's response to domestic violence must be language appropriate.
6. The Police Department and the City's Real Estate Division shall work collaboratively and expediently to locate appropriate office space for the Domestic Violence Response Unit (DVRU) to secure victim safety and include sufficient space for victim advocates. The Audit found that the current office space for the DVRU does not sufficiently account for victim safety or the confidential nature of victim advocacy. The needs of victims must be accounted for.
7. The Adult Probation Department shall develop a plan to ensure oversight and annual recertification of the City's batterer intervention programs. The Audit found a systemic lack of accountability of batterer intervention programs, including reviews of defendant enrollment and re-enrollment in programs during probation. One study found that over 50 percent of enrollees did not complete their programs, leaving victims even more vulnerable to their batterers. Already, the Chief Probation Officer has taken preliminary steps to address this critical area.
8. The Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) shall initiate a planning process around a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week victim advocate response to domestic violence calls to 911 and the police. The Audit found that first responders, including 911 operators and patrol officers, are mostly unaware of the range of services available to domestic violence victims. In partnership with the City's community-based domestic violence intervention service providers, DOSW shall explore the provision of consistent referrals to resources for victims.



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Mayor