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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

San Francisco Family Violence Council Issues
FY 2018-FY 2019 Report on Family Violence in San Francisco

The Family Violence Council releases today its annual report on trends in the occurrence of family violence in the City and County of San Francisco. This year's report includes 20 recommendations for the upcoming year, informed by the data from over ten City public agencies and 27 community-based organizations. This report covers family violence in San Francisco which includes the prevalence of abuse, the response from City agencies, demographics of victims and survivors, access to community-based services, and demographics of people perpetrating abuse in the reporting period.

The *FY 2018-FY 2019* report found four main findings across all three forms of family violence:

- **There are clear racial disparities across all three forms of family violence** (child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse). Family violence disproportionately impacts Black/African American and Latinx populations.
- **Family violence disproportionately affects women and girls.** The trauma of family violence results in severe, negative impacts on an individual's quality of life, including worsened health outcomes and economic insecurity.
- **The use of weapons, especially firearms, in domestic violence incidents is on the rise.** There has been an increase in 911 calls concerning weapons and multiple homicides involving firearms. Between FY 2018 and FY 2019, there was a 44% increase in armed assailants with guns.
- **There remains a significant need for shelter for survivors of family violence:** four out of five clients are turned away from emergency shelter.

"Family violence survivors and San Francisco's service providers are under incredible strain during this difficult time" said Supervisor Catherine Stefani, the Board of Supervisors' designee to the Family Violence Council. "The findings in this report make it clear that we still have a lot of work to do, particularly around racial disparities and gun violence. I will not let up until each and every San Franciscan is safe from family violence."

The Family Violence Council issued recommendations in the FY 2018-FY 2019 report to address the ongoing challenges presented, many of which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the key recommendations is to increase capacity for community-based agencies engaged in the prevention and response to family violence.

Speaking jointly, the Family Violence Council tri-chairs Katie Albright, Executive Director of Safe & Sound; Beverly Upton, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Consortium; and Shawna Reeves,

Director of Elder Abuse Prevention at the Institute on Aging, stated: “families experiencing violence greatly rely on the support of community organizations that are stretched to the point of breaking, and there are clear racial disparities across all three forms of family violence. Now, with the combined tragedies of COVID-19, economic collapse, and systemic racism, instability and trauma for families has increased substantially. If our community is going to meaningfully respond to these tragedies and fundamentally alter the experience of family violence, we need to shift resources to invest in community agencies.”

President of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women Breanna Zwart, said: “As in previous years, the report demonstrates that trusted community-based organizations are a critical first-line of support for many victims of family violence, who would otherwise endure abuse alone and remain at high risk of injury or even death. As our nation grapples with the ongoing crisis of structural racism inflicted on Black and brown communities, the importance of community-based violence prevention and intervention services is further underscored. The City and County, in partnership with non-profits that provide critical and life-saving services, keep our families safe.”

Carol Sacco, Interim Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, which convenes the quarterly meetings of the Council, added: “Family violence must be addressed through working collaboratives of government and community agencies. The first step is seeing the data on who is affected and how they are accessing help, so we know where we need to improve our efforts. We appreciate the partnership of City agencies willing to come together in our mutual efforts to address family violence.”

The *FY 2018- FY2019 Report on Family Violence in San Francisco* is available at the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women website: <https://sfgov.org/dosw/family-violence-reports>

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