FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES
A STATEMENT REGARDING THE GUILTY VERDICT OF DEREK CHAUVIN

SAN FRANCISCO – On April 21, 2021, Executive Director Paul Henderson of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability made the following statement regarding the guilty verdict of Derek Chauvin.

“The guilty verdict of Derek Chauvin is an important moment in history – not just as a measurement of accountability – but as an indicator of the potential and desire for criminal justice reform.” Said Director Henderson. “While the guilty verdict represents the most public form of accountability, it does not mean the work is over. We must continue to reform law enforcement policies and practices at a local, state, and national level to ensure a future where this will not happen again.”

The DPA is currently working under direction of the San Francisco Police Commission to solicit members of the community to address disparities in SFPD’s interactions with communities of color. This request came after the Center for Policing Equity presented a report examining disparities in SFPD interactions with communities of color. The SFPD has seen a significant reduction in their use-of-force since 2016, but Black and Hispanic individuals continue to make up more than half of all uses of force.

“Redefining public safety with race neutral outcomes in policing is possible, but only if we have an intentional approach that addresses inequality in our justice system. Conversations about reform, supported by actual data, can and do make a difference,” added Director Henderson.

The Department of Police Accountability welcomes the community to send suggestions on policing reform to sfdpa@sfgov.org, and to review recommendations we have made by clicking on the “Policy Recommendation” tab on our website at sfgov.org/DPA. We also provide “DPA 101” presentations by Zoom for members of the public who are interested in learning more about the work we do.

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