



City and County of San Francisco
POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT
1245 3RD Street, 6TH Floor
San Francisco, California 94158



NEWS RELEASE

May 29, 2018
18-073

San Francisco Police Officers Participate in Training For Using Best Practices with Youth

San Francisco Police Department officers will attend a four day *Policing the Teen Brain* train-the-trainer session May 29th through June 1st at the San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Developed by Strategies for Youth (SFY), the *Policing the Teen Brain* training aims to improve interactions between law enforcement and youth, give officers a better understanding of the development of the teen brain and thought processes and provide tactics for deescalating interactions and avoiding the use of force. An important goal of the training is to help officers be aware of and address disproportionate minority contact and reduce the arrests of youth demonstrating mental health issues.

“We look to this unique program as a step toward enhancing our work with youth,” said SFPD Chief William Scott. “Through this training, we hope to offer officers new skills for interacting with youth, give them a better understanding of why youth behave the way they do and strengthen officers’ relationships with young people in San Francisco.”

The San Francisco Youth Commission and the Department of Police Accountability lobbied for the training for the past eight years and were instrumental in bringing the course to the San Francisco Police Department.

“As a chartered city body, the Youth Commission is in a unique position to hear the concerns of youth across San Francisco,” said Kiely Hosmon, Director of the San Francisco Youth Commission. “Youth in our city have expressed concerns regarding their interactions with law enforcement officers, and we are hopeful this training will help improve relationships between youth and police.”

The *Policing the Teen Brain* training includes a psychologist specializing in adolescent development to explain normative development for youth, mental health issues prevalent among teens and the impacts of trauma on police/youth interactions.

Continued:


Tel. 1-415-837-7395

Fax 1-415-837-7249

E-mail: sfpdmediarelations@sfgov.org

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The newly trained officers will present the SFY curriculum on demographic and cultural factors affecting police/youth interactions, as well as changes in juvenile laws affecting officers' provision of *Miranda* protections. The SFY training also includes youth who will participate in skits and dialogues with the officers. Leaders of youth-serving programs will highlight community-based services and alternatives to arrest.

"We are delighted that the SFPD is committed to equipping its officers with skills and best practices for working effectively with youth," said Lisa H. Thureau, Executive Director at Strategies for Youth.

Funding for the training is being provided by the Zellerbach Family Foundation. Strategies for Youth is a national nonprofit training and policy organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions and reducing disproportionate minority contact. Strategies for Youth has worked law enforcement agencies across the country. For more information about Strategies for Youth, please contact Lisa Thureau at 617-513-8366.

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