



DPA

San Francisco Department of Police Accountability

Paul David Henderson
Executive Director

June 5, 2019

Hon. Bob Hirsch, President
Hon. Damali Taylor, Vice-President
Members, San Francisco Police Commission

Re: Department of Police Accountability's 1st Quarter 2019 Policy Work

Dear President Hirsch, Vice-President Taylor and Commissioners:

This letter provides an overview of the Department of Police Accountability's policy work during the 1st Quarter 2019. Throughout the 1st quarter, the DPA participated in SFPD's Executive Sponsor Working Group that addressed DOJ's Collaborative Reform recommendations concerning complaint and disciplinary processes and SFPD's Staffing Taskforce. Additionally, the DPA advanced its policy work in three areas as discussed below.

- **Completed a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department General Order**

During 1st Quarter 2019, the DPA continued its policy work to enhancing services, police protocols and training for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. In November 2017, the DPA brought together a group of community stakeholders including deaf individuals to draft a Department General Order (DGO) on police protocols for interacting with Deaf and hard of Hearing individuals. Meeting monthly, the working group completed a proposed DGO, created an officer reference guide to use during traffic stops, and identified different technologies to assist SFPD officers at the station and in the field to communicate with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The DPA responded to questions and advised on provisions as this DGO underwent SFPD and SF Police Officer Association review during the 1st Quarter 2019.

- **Advocated for Timely Release of Incident Reports to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors and Data Collection Concerning SFPD Compliance with Family Code section 6228.**

During the 1st Quarter 2019, the DPA participated in the Police Commission's Working Group concerning the timely release of police reports to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. During 2018, in response to a DPA complaint and numerous other incidents where domestic violence survivors were not able to obtain their incidents within the mandated deadline, the DPA recommended that the Police Department:

1. Implement immediately a system that provides the enumerated victims their incident report within the statutory deadline;
2. Provide information on SFPD's website about how victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder/dependent adult abuse can obtain their incident report pursuant to Family Code § 6228;
3. Monitor compliance with the statutory deadline and report to the Police Commission its compliance with the Family Code §6228 on a quarterly basis.

The DPA, community stakeholders, Police Commissioners Damali Taylor and John Hamasaki, and SFPD representatives met several times to discuss SFPD procedures for releasing police reports pursuant to Family Code §6228, including exceptional circumstances when victims did not have identification or could not travel in person to Police Headquarters. The Working Group also discussed the manner in which SFPD would collect and present its compliance data on a quarterly basis.

- **Enhancing SFPD's Ability to Provide Language Access Services.**

Throughout the 1st quarter 2019, the DPA and the Language Access Working Group met to advance its recommendations concerning language access services. The Language Access Working Group is comprised of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse service providers, language access advocates, city agencies, Police Commissioner Petra DeJesus, and the Police Department, and meets monthly, a practice the DPA initiated in 2012 to enhance SFPD's language access services. The Working Group is focused on expanding the number of certified languages to include growing populations in which SFPD has officers who speak these languages yet need certification to use them at work such as Toisan, Hindi and Arabic. A second large project involves rolling out the Language Line app on all Department-issued cell phones of patrol officers so that they can more easily access spoken language interpreters and also video conference with an American Sign Interpreter when interacting with a Deaf or hard of hearing individual.

Thank you for your continued support in advancing the policy work of the Department of Police Accountability.

Sincerely,



Paul Henderson
Executive Director