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**The City of San Francisco  
Department of Police Accountability**

**PAUL HENDERSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ANNOUNCES ITS LAUNCH  
OF THE *KNOW YOUR RIGHTS* INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

[San Francisco, CA, May 30] The Department of Police Accountability (DPA) is thrilled to announce the official launch of its *Know Your Rights (KYR)* initiative for San Francisco youth. The DPA today released the *KYR* initiative; it is designed to educate San Francisco juveniles in their Constitutional rights related to exchanges with police officers, and prepare juveniles to safely navigate police interactions.

First established by San Francisco votes through the Board of Supervisor’s ballot initiative in 1982, the DPA—formerly the Office of Citizen Complaints—proudly boasts a thirty-five year legacy of strong community support for its mission to provide civilian oversight of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD). Specifically, the mission of the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability is to promptly, fairly, and impartially investigate complaints against San Francisco police officers, make policy recommendations regarding police on a quarterly basis to enhance police-community relations while ensuring public safety, and conduct periodic audits of the San Francisco Police Department. The DPA is overseen by the San Francisco Police Commission, which also governs the SFPD.

The *KYR* initiative consists of the latest edition of the “*Know Your Rights for Youth in San Francisco*” guide, which has been translated into six languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Arabic and Russian. The guide pairs with an interactive workshop for youth participants tailored to the needs of schools and organizations that seek to furnish their youth with life-saving resources.

The latest *KYR* guide includes the recent Chapter 96C<sup>1</sup> amendments to the San Francisco Administrative Code. Effective 2019, if a youth is 17 years or younger, and in custody, San Francisco ordinance requires that that youth consult with legal counsel before waiver of any Miranda rights. This consultation with legal counsel may not be waived. Additionally, the ordinance requires that SFPD

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as the Jeff Adachi Youth Rights Ordinance

allow youth 17 years or younger to have a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult present during custodial interrogations.

Within the guide, readers will find instructions that traverse all stages of interaction with police (including detainment, arrest and custody); distill complex legal concepts into easily digestible pieces; escort readers to peaceful interactions with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers; provide a series of useful resources for more edification; and a host of other helpful information.

At the *KYR* workshop, youth attendees will participate in an informative game of *Juvenile Justice Jeopardy* developed by Strategies for Youth with Q&A with trained DPA staff and attorneys, and conclude with a comprehensive presentation that details the DPA's role as an oversight entity committed to bridging the gaps between police and civilians.

DPA's legal and outreach teams worked collaboratively with the San Francisco Youth Commission, San Francisco Public Defender's Office, Asian Law Caucus, Strategies for Youth, Legal Services for Children, and the San Francisco Immigrant Legal & Education Network in the development and assembly of this guidebook and its complementing materials. For decades, the DPA has proudly advocated alongside youth groups for the protection of the public's civil liberties.

"Maintaining and protecting civil rights for our youth is one of the most important functions of local government. Civil rights protect every one of us—not just some of us—and, in San Francisco, that means we have a duty to inform our most vulnerable communities about their rights as a confirmation of our values. The effectiveness of the new laws is only as valuable as the knowledge about *when* and *how* we assert them. I'm proud of the collaborative work that resulted in the production of this important project," DPA Executive Director Paul Henderson announced when asked about *KYR*. "The '*Know Your Rights* for Youth in San Francisco' guide is an important tool to assist juveniles in preserving their Constitutional rights during police contacts, in situations with both criminal and immigration repercussions."

The DPA is at the forefront of informing youth communities about newly defined legal protections as those protections relate to juveniles' rights in San Francisco. You are encouraged to share this important information with interested agencies and individuals concerned with continued justice reforms. **To learn more about the DPA's pioneering work in police accountability or the *Know Your Rights* Initiative, contact DPA's Project and Outreach Manager, Danielle Motley-Lewis at 415-241-7728, or email [Danielle.Motley-Lewis@sfgov.org](mailto:Danielle.Motley-Lewis@sfgov.org), or visit the website at <https://sfgov.org/dpa/youth>.**