



# City and County of San Francisco

## Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint Committee

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,  
Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

### Meeting Minutes

Members: Dean Schmidt (Chair), Laura Stein, and Saul Sugarman

Clerk: *Patricia Petersen*  
(415) 554-7719 ~ [patricia.petersen@sfgov.org](mailto:patricia.petersen@sfgov.org)

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Tuesday, November 18,  
2025

5:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

City Hall, Room 408

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1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND AGENDA CHANGES** (00:01:33)

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. On the call of the roll, Chair Schmidt, Vice-Chair Stein, and Member Sugarman were noted present. Administrator Pat Petersen was present. There was a quorum.

2. **Approval of the October 21, 2025, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint Committee Regular Meeting minutes.** (00:02:48)

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Vice-Chair Stein, to approve the October 21, 2025 minutes.**

Public Comment: None

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Stein, Sugarman

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

3. **Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction but not on today's agenda. (00:04:31)

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis requests acknowledgement receipt of complaints submitted to the Task Force. Mr. Petrelis further thanked the volunteers for their service and hoped that the Board of Supervisors funds the airing of Task Force meetings on SFGovTV.

4. **File No. 25008:** Complaint filed by Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez against the Mayor's Office for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section(s) 67.21, by failing to respond to a public records request in a timely and/or complete manner. (00:07:28)

Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez (Petitioner) was not present.

Dexter Darmali (Respondent) described the search process and noted that he was not in office at the time of the request on 1/3/2025. Mr. Darmali stated that he recently searched for the requested records on the Mayor's phone and did not know if the Mayor's telephone is a City-issued or a personal phone.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Member Sugarman, to close the matter per Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Complaint Procedures Section 7(b).**

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis stated his disappointment that Petitioner was not present and further stated his disappointment that Respondent's representative was unprepared to speak to the records retention policy.

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Sugarman, Stein

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

5. **File No. 25033:** Complaint filed by Joudere Gaines against San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section(s) 67.21, by failing to respond to a public records request in a timely and/or complete manner. (00:36:03)

Joudere Gaines (Petitioner) stated that the SFMTA directed him to a website for all email correspondences involving his email address, but under the law the department is the custodian. Mr. Gaines further stated that he narrowed the scope of his request, but SFMTA has not produced evidence of a search, has not assisted me with his request, and has not provided the reasons for any exemptions.

Scott Edwards, Deputy Director/Deputy Chief, Streets/Parking Enforcement and Traffic (Respondent) affirmed that the production directed by the Education, Outreach, and Training Committee at its 9/23/2025 meeting were provided to Petitioner via NextRequest.

The Committee members clarified that File 25033 was heard at the Education, Outreach, and Training Committee on 9/23/2025, at which Respondent was directed to provide a response to each of the requests listed in NR 24-6646 located on pages 3-8 of the meeting packet.

A question-and-answer period occurred.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Vice-Chair Stein, that the Task Force has jurisdiction, that the requested records are public, and forwarded the matter to the full Task Force with no recommendation.**

Public Comment: Aaron Wilson asked whether Respondent put his name and job title on any of the correct in this matter as required by a government code.

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Stein, Sugarman

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

6. **File No. 25073:** Complaint filed by Gilbert Kenneth Solt against the Human Services Agency for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section(s) 67.21 by failing to respond to a public records request in a timely and/or complete manner. (01:24:34)

Gilbert Kenneth Solt (Petitioner) was not present.

Michelle Berry (Respondent) was present.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Member Sugarman, to close the matter per 7(b).**

Public Comment: Aaron Wilson stated that these people have to be tricked to produce

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Sugarman, Stein

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

7. **File No. 25075:** Complaint filed by Jared Stratton against San Francisco Police Department for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section(s) 67.21, by failing to respond to a public records request in a timely and/or complete manner. (01:29:46)

Jared Stratton (Petitioner) summarized his complaint and stated the he received a blanket response to his request, that a public balancing test has not been applied, that the department had not segregated for non-exempt records, and asked that the department send what they can in a timely manner.

Lt. William Heppler (Respondent) summarized the department's position and stated that a response was provided on 9/12/2025 re the Doodler serial killer case, and that Petitioner was informed that the request was denied because this is an open case and an open investigation, per California Government Code 7923.600 exempting disclosure of the records. Lt. Heppler further stated that the department received another public records request on 9/28/2025 with essentially the same request under reference number P22 549-70-9825 and the department declined to release those records. Lt. Heppler stated that he spoke with the sergeant in charge of the cold case homicide unit and verified that this case is still open and that no part of this case is releasable at this time.

A question-and-answer period occurred.

**ACTION: Moved by Member Sugarman, seconded by Vice-Chair Stein, to find that the Task Force has jurisdiction, that the requested records are public, and referred the matter to the full Task Force with no recommendation.**

Public Comment: Aaron Wilson stated that opening the file would encourage someone to come forward.

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Sugarman, Stein, Schmidt

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

The committee was in recess from 7:44 until 7:52 p.m.

8. **File No. 25079 (25-6804):** Complaint filed by Aaron Wilson against San Francisco Animal Care & Control for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.26, by failing to keep withholdings to a minimum, and Section 67.27, by failing to provide written justification of withholdings. (02:18:19)

Aaron Wilson (Petitioner) stated that the City Attorney's Office is to protect and secure the rights of the people of San Francisco to access public information and shall not act as legal counsel for any city employee or any person having custody of any public records for purposes of denying access to the public, but San Francisco Animal Care & Control consulted with the City Attorney regarding redactions, and the City Attorney never talked to or reached out to me. Mr. Wilson further stated he is the victim of dog bites on City property and needs to have information to file a lawsuit, spread public awareness and protect myself. Mr. Wilson stated that the addresses being withheld are City premises and should not be redacted.

Justine Alberto, Custodian of Records (Respondent) stated that the four complaints on the 11/18/2025 Complaint Committee Agenda are about dog bite incidents involving two animals. Ms. Alberto further stated that on 10/24/2025 the department conducted an internal interview on the four bite incidents and Petitioner requested the records. Ms.

Alberto stated that Petitioner seeks a hospital bite report, but the department does not have a copy of the report, and that the Department of Public Health is unable to locate the requested report.

A question-and-answer period occurred.

**ACTION: Moved by Vice-Chair Stein, seconded by Sugarman, to find that the Task Force has jurisdiction, that the requested records are public, and refer the matter to the full Task Force for consideration of a violation of Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section(s) 67.26, by failing to keep withholdings to a minimum, and/or Section(s) 67.27 by failing to provide written justification of withholdings.**

Public Comment: None

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Stein, Sugarman, Schmidt

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

9. **File No. 25080 (25-6968):** Complaint filed by Aaron Wilson against San Francisco Animal Care & Control for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.26, by failing to keep withholdings to a minimum, and Section 67.27, by failing to provide written justification of withholdings. (03:10:20)

Aaron Wilson (Petitioner) provided a summary his request for a hospital report as required under California law. Mr. Wilson further stated that Paul Reyes indicated he'd filed a report, that San Francisco Animal Care & Control should have the report, and that Urban Alchemy should have filed a report.

Justine Alberto, Custodian of Records (Respondent) stated that the department does not have a copy of the hospital report. Ms. Alberto further stated that the department contacted the hospital and that they do not have such a report.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Member Sugarman, that the task force has jurisdiction, that the records are public, and to forward the matter to the Consent Agenda with a recommendation of no violation.**

Public Comment: None

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Sugarman, Stein

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

10. **File No. 25081 (25-6969):** Complaint filed by Aaron Wilson against San Francisco Animal Care & Control for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.26, by failing to keep withholdings to a minimum, and Section 67.27, by failing to provide written justification of withholdings. (03:43:59)

Aaron Wilson (Petitioner) stated that the City allowed a dog to run free on their property and failed to do their duty.

Justine Alberto (Respondent) stated that the identity of the owner of the dog was provided to Petitioner, and that the address was redacted because it was the address of a family member of the owner of the dog.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Member Sugarman to find that the Task Force has jurisdiction, that the requested records are public, and to refer the matter to the full Task Force with no specific recommendations.**

Public Comment: None

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Sugarman, Stein

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

11. **File No. 25082 (27-7231):** Complaint filed by Aaron Wilson against San Francisco Animal Care & Control for allegedly violating Administrative Code (Sunshine Ordinance), Section 67.26, by failing to keep withholdings to a minimum, and Section 67.27, by failing to provide written justification of withholdings. (03:45:39)

Aaron Wilson (Petitioner) stated that San Francisco Animal Care & Control was unsuccessful in capturing Scraps because he was Urban Alchemy's dog and the department knew this and allowed it to occur.

Justine Alberto (Respondent) stated that Scrappy is named Scruffy in the department's records, and once we had that record we were able provide responsive records.

**ACTION: Moved by Chair Schmidt, seconded by Vice-Chair Stein to find that the Task Force has jurisdiction, that the requested records are public, and to refer File No. 25082 to the full Task Force in conjunction with File No. 25081 as they are subsets of File No. 25079 and they should be considered in tandem.**

Public Comment: None

The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 – Schmidt, Stein, Sugarman

Noes: 0 – None

Absent: 0 – None

12. **Hearing re Advancing Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Section 67.30 Roles.**

The members discussed continuing to explore time limits on when meetings end, including a mechanism such as calling a vote after a prescribed period of time to advance the conversation or setting a point in time where the next action is to call a motion, or the Administrator could maintain a timer for calling for a motion with the option to extend the conversation for 30 number of minutes rather than waive (depends on the case). *Member Schmidt notes that this is appropriate at the Committee level; the TF is to produce. Per Victor; okay to do this if it's added by the Complaint Procedure. Only a set number of matters could be scheduled to ensure that a case could be heard in 30 minutes. Per Victor; could also set number of times a [Supervisor] could speak ... he'll forward to PP for sharing with the Complaint Committee.* Chair Schmidt is open to no rebuttals or 1 minute. Chair Schmidt suggests ordering the Chair to call out “are you asking a question?”

Next Meeting: (1) proposal to amend the rules (30” then debate ends; 3 debates and then motion is made), (2) Victor’s language, and (3) 1-minute rebuttal. Finalize at next Complaint Committee and take it forward in January.

Public Comment: None

13. **Announcements, Comments, Questions, and Future Agenda Items by Members of the Complaint Committee. (03:47:09)**

Vice-Chair Stein provided a summary of the review of the Task Force at the noted that the Commission Streamlining Task Force, and reported that the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Annual Report is on the next Task Force Agenda.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sunshine Ordinance Task Force**  
**Complaint Committee**

N.B. The Minutes of this meeting set forth all actions taken by the Complaint Committee on the matters stated, but not necessarily in the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

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DRAFT