Resolution Commending the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of Citizen Complaints, and community partners on the establishment of the DGO 7.04 officer training

WHEREAS, the first right in the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights is “I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent’s arrest;”¹ and

WHEREAS, the 2013-14 Youth Commission adopted a letter of support for the passage of SFPD Department General Order 7.04 Children of Arrested Parents on April 7, 2014;² and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Police Commission adopted Department General Order 7.04 Children of Arrested Parents on May 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the general order establishes specific protocols for officers assisting the wellbeing and safety of children when they are present during a parent’s arrest; and

WHEREAS, the order states that “[t]he goal of responding officers…is to minimize the disruption to the children of an arrested parent, parent by providing the most supportive environment possible after an arrest, minimizing unnecessary trauma to the children of an arrestee, and determining the best alternative care for the children that is safe;”³ and

WHEREAS, DGO 7.04 represents several years of collaboration between the San Francisco Police Department, Office of Citizen Complaints, Child Protective Services, San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, and Project WHAT beginning in 2007; and

WHEREAS, DGO 7.04 establishes a permanent general order superseding the previous department bulletin on the same topic; and

WHEREAS, at the time of DGO 7.04’s adoption, the Police Department committed to training officers in the use of the protocols outlined in the general order; and

WHEREAS, at the time of adoption the department had already begun work on a training video in collaboration with the Office of Citizen Complaints, Project WHAT, SFCIPP, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the resulting video includes the voices of youth who have been affected by their parent’s incarceration, as well as examples of real scenarios that might be encountered by officers when making arrests of parents; and

WHEREAS, the video, once released, will be shown to all SFPD officers as a roll call training to ensure the full implementation of the general order; and

WHEREAS, investigating the needs of and expanding support services for children of incarcerated parents was among the Youth Commission’s 2013-14 annual Budget and Policy Priorities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that San Francisco Youth Commission commends the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of Citizen Complaints, Project WHAT, and SFCIPP on the successful completion of a collaboratively-developed quality training tool that centers the voices of young people and those most affected by familial incarceration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission commends the youth who participated in the DGO 7.04 Children of Arrested Parents training video for their courage in telling their stories; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission commends the San Francisco Police Department for their commitment to ensuring officers are trained and supported in the implementation of the protocols outlined in DGO 7.04; and be it further


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RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission encourages Chief Greg Suhr to release this video online so that it may commence to set an example and serve as a resource for other police departments across the country; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission commends the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Police Commission on their commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and youth of San Francisco.

Michel Li
2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair
Adopted on January 5, 2015