



# Third Quarter 2024 Policy Work

## San Francisco Department of Police Accountability

Prepared for San Francisco Police Commission

Department of Police Accountability

Executive Director Paul Henderson

## Policy Overview

During the Third Quarter of 2024, the Department of Police Accountability's policy work included participating in SFPD General Order Working Groups, drafting policy failure reports for DPA cases, and attending USDOJ COPS trainings on emerging policy issues.

## Key Work This Quarter:

As part of DPA's ongoing effort to support policy development, DPA focused on providing SFPD with best practice recommendations, current legal standards, and relevant DPA case examples. Areas of emphasis this quarter included Language Access, Swatting, and Sexual Assault.

### 1. Working Group Participation

- a. DGO 5.20 Language Access Services Working Group: Prepared a **comprehensive report** on the draft DGO 5.20 *Language Access Services*, for the working group. The report included guidance from the USDOJ Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative, CA POST Learning Domain 42, DPA case examples, and historical SFPD policies. DPA is continuing to collaborate with Commissioner Yanez, SFPD Subject Matter Experts, and community members on a new policy that incorporates S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 91 and national best practices.
- b. DGO 6.16 Sexual Assault Working Group: Assisting subject matter experts to update guidelines with clear workflow for patrol officers, emphasizing trauma-informed practices.

### 2. DPA Cases resulting in Policy Failures: During Q3, DPA piloted a modification to our team model, which included earlier involvement in potential policy failure cases.

- a. **Case Spotlight**: In one DPA case, a complainant alleged he was the victim of 10 "swatting" incidents in a 6-month period. "Swatting" is the act of making fraudulent 911 calls with the intent of provoking an armed police response to a target location. The DPA determined that SFPD does not have a policy on how officers should respond to "swatting" calls. DPA provided SFPD with a memo issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as information on how other cities have attempted to mitigate swatting.

- 3. USDOJ Trainings:** Attended several COPS DOJ Training Portal courses to enhance understanding of emerging policy approaches, which informed contributions to the working groups and policy analysis. Courses or certifications include:
- a. "Overcoming Language Barriers in Policing and Building an Effective Language Access Program."
  - b. "Community Policing: Improving Police Efficacy and Building Trust."
  - c. "Use of Drones by Public Safety Agencies."
  - d. "Vehicular Pursuit Management: Balancing Risks and Enhancing Safety."

**Department General Order Recommendations**

General Order	Format
<i>5.20 Language Access</i>	Memorandum/Working Group
<i>6.13 Prejudice Based Incidents</i>	Grid
<i>6.16 Sexual Assault</i>	Working Group