



LONDON BREED
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Department of Police Accountability
ONE SOUTH VAN NESS AVE., 8th FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



PAUL DAVID HENDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 1, 2022

Acting President Cindy Elias
Commissioners
San Francisco Police Commission

Second Quarter 2022 Policy Work

Highlights of the DPA's key second quarter 2022 policy recommendations are described below.

I. Disengagement Policy

On May 7, 2020, DPA recommended that SFPD develop a Disengagement Policy to address circumstances when police engagement is no longer needed or when re-engaging in a different manner or at a different time, would mitigate risks, preserve life, and increase likelihood of a peaceful outcome.¹ During the second quarter of 2022, DPA made twenty-eight (28) recommendations and collaborated with SFPD's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to finalize SFPD's draft Disengagement policy which will be presented to SFPD's command staff for a concurrence meeting on September 2, 2022.

The draft Disengagement Policy DPA developed with the CIT Unit recognizes that there may be incidents involving a person who is not a threat to officers or others that law enforcement believes can be handled more safely using disengagement. The policy also recognizes that law enforcement's legal authority to take a person into custody does not override their discretion to pursue a safer course of action. Tactical disengagement, which is a form of de-escalation, is an option that may be considered when an officer reasonably believes continued contact may result in an unreasonable risk to the subject, the public, or officers, especially in situations involving an isolated or barricaded subject, a suicidal subject, or a person believed to be experiencing a mental health crisis. When the risk to the involved subject, members of the community, or responding officers outweighs the need for immediate action, officers are instructed they should consider disengagement to improve officer safety, mitigate threats, maintain public trust, and preserve life.

DPA's 28 recommendations made in collaboration with the SFPD CIT Unit were as follows:

- 1) Developed criteria to be met for disengagement.
- 2) Created on scene procedures to be followed.
- 3) Established duties for officers, sergeants, and superior officers before and during disengagement.

¹ DPA's recommendation to develop a Disengagement Policy was originally made in the context of developing General Order 8.02, SFPD's policy on Hostages and Barricaded Subjects.



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- 4) Created documentation requirements and post-incident follow-up procedures.

DPA anticipates that the final Disengagement Policy will be presented to the Police Commission during the third or fourth quarter of 2022.

II. SFPD General Order 5.18 – Transporting People in Custody.

During the second quarter, DPA participated in a Working Group with SFPD, the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department, and the San Francisco Fire Department to revise and update Department General Order 5.18, SFPD’s policy on transporting people in custody. DPA made approximately ten (10) recommendations regarding transporting youth in crisis, transporting transgender people consistent with the model policy created by the National Center for Transgender Equality, and banning transport methods that create a risk of positional asphyxia.

III. SFPD General Order 9.01 – Traffic Policy Curtailing Pretext Stops

DPA collaborated with SFPD, the Police Commission, and the Human Rights Commission during the second quarter to create and schedule listening sessions to give the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the Police Commission’s proposed policy to end pretext stops as set forth in draft SFPD General Order 9.01. These listening sessions are scheduled to take place during the third and fourth quarters.

Sincerely,

Paul Henderson
Executive Director