



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



PAUL DAVID HENDERSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 13, 2023

President Cindy Elias  
Vice President Max Carter-Oberstone  
Commissioners  
San Francisco Police Commission

### **Second Quarter 2023 Policy Work**

Highlights of the Department of Police Accountability's (DPA's) second quarter 2023 Policy Recommendations are described below.

#### **I. DPA Recommended that SFPD Publicly Post All Policies on the SFPD Website**

In the second quarter of 2023, DPA recommended that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) publicly post all active policies on the SFPD website including, but not limited to, General Orders, Department Notices, Bureau Orders, and Unit Orders. Currently, only some policies are public posted. Doing so would bring SFPD into compliance with both the U.S. Department of Justice Recommendations in its 2016 COPS Report and The Final Report of President Obama's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Final Report states, "**All policies** and aggregate data should be made publicly available to ensure transparency." (Exec. Summary, p. 3, emphasis added.) They also made specific recommendations on this point:

Law enforcement agencies should establish a culture of transparency and accountability in order to build public trust and legitimacy. This will help ensure decision making is understood and in accord with stated policy. (Rec. 1.3, p. 12.)

To embrace a culture of transparency, **law enforcement agencies should make all department policies available for public review** and regularly post on the department's website information about stops, summonses, arrests, reported crime, and other law enforcement data aggregated by demographics. (Action Item 1.3.1, p.13, emphasis added.)

Similarly, the U.S. Department of Justice, in its 2016 COPS Report, made the same recommendation:

The SFPD should increase transparency by collecting and providing data, **policies**, and procedures to the public in multiple languages relevant to the local community through official SFPD website and municipal open data portals. (Rec. 68.3.)

DPA's recommendation that SFPD make all active policies available on the SFPD website is consistent with best practices and is particularly important in light of past problems with SFPD issuing the now obsolete Department Bulletins and Bureau Orders in a manner that is not transparent to the public.



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**II. The SFPD Crisis Intervention Unit Maintain a Minimum Staffing Level of 8 Officers**

DPA and the City-Wide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Working Group recommend that DGO 5.21, SFPD’s Policy on Crisis Intervention, be amended to require minimum staffing of eight officers in the CIT Unit. Currently, there are two fully duty officers, a light duty officer, and a light duty sergeant assigned to the CIT Unit. This is an insufficient number for the CIT Unit to be able to both respond to calls for service and perform the CIT crises intervention training, which includes teaching de-escalation tactics, so that SFPD officers can handle behavioral crisis calls with the least amount of force possible.

Many of the US Department of Justice reforms tied to the Use of Force depend on a robust and well-functioning CIT Unit. But for the CIT Unit, SFPD may not be in substantial compliance with many of the recommendations. Although the SFPD has staffing issues, DPA and the CIT Working Group note that other units at SFPD are growing. With the increase in SFPD’s budget, DPA and the CIT Working Group jointly recommend that more staffing be assigned to the CIT Unit, so they may fulfill the CIT Unit’s core functions including responding with the Department of Public Health personnel and other clinicians to behavioral health crisis calls under the co-responder model.

**III. SFPD General Order Revisions**

During the first quarter of 2023, DPA researched and provided to SFPD recommendations on three existing DGO’s and 20 policy recommendations to SFPD as delineated in the below table.

	<b>DGO</b>	<b>No. of DPA Recommendations</b>	<b>Date of Submission to SFPD or Police Commission</b>
1.	1.06 Duties of Superior Officers	1	5/17/23
2.	6.10 Missing Persons	17	5/30/23
3.	9.01 Traffic	2	4/13/23, 4/21/23

Total: 20

Q2 2023

**Working Groups**

DPA also participated in Community Working Groups to update:

- DGO 10.11 – Body Worn Camera Policy
- DGO 8.10 - Criminal Investigations of People Engaging in First Amendment Activities



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**IV. Specific DPA Recommendations of Note**


**Missing Children.** DPA recommended that SFPD’s Missing Persons Policy, DGO 6.10, be amended to state that a missing child under the age of 18 constitutes exigent circumstances requiring an immediate search. Currently, SFPD’s policy from 1999 generally only considers a missing child to be exigent circumstances if the child is under 12 years old. DPA recommends raising the age limit to be consistent with state law (Pen. Code, §14215) and to protect teen youth from the dangers of human trafficking.

**Expanded Body Worn Camera Usage.** DPA recommended that all armed SFPD members, including the command staff, be required to wear and activate body worn cameras when doing police work in the community, including responding to critical incidents. Currently, only police officers at the rank of lieutenant and below are required to wear body worn cameras under DGO 10.11, SFPD’s Body Worn Camera policy.

**Joint SFPD and DPA Body Worn Camera Viewing Platform.** DPA recommended that DPA be granted access to the same body worn camera viewing platform that SFPD uses to facilitate DPA’s timely investigation of officer-involved shootings and public complaints of police misconduct.

**V. Standing Policy Item**

**SFPD Working Group Improve the Accuracy of SFPD’s Traffic Stop Data.** In Q4 of 2022, DPA recommended that SFPD form a working group with external partners to improve the accuracy of SFPD’s traffic stop data. Specifically, DPA recommended that SFPD and DPA form a working group with SFPD’s IT Division, experts on traffic stop data, and academic partners to ensure SFPD’s systems are up to date and that SFPD’s traffic stop data is accurate and can be validated. DPA continues to recommend that SFPD convene this working group. This will be a standing policy item on DPA quarterly policy reports until resolution.

Sincerely,  
  
Paul Henderson  
Executive Director