



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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**PAUL MIYAMOTO
SHERIFF**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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PRESS RELEASE

SHERIFF MIYAMOTO ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM

San Francisco, CA -- Sheriff Paul Miyamoto announced a series of initiatives that will transform the San Francisco Sheriff's Office in the coming years to be more transparent, accountable and equitable and ensure an inclusive work environment.

"As both a person of color and a member of law enforcement, I have felt a mixture of emotions during these past few weeks," said Sheriff Miyamoto. "I felt sickened by George Floyd's tragic death.

"I experienced hope watching the peaceful protests in San Francisco and across the nation, tearing down barriers to long overdue changes in law enforcement and exposing cultural racism. The San Francisco Sheriff's Office is embracing this moment and moving forward with changes that reflect our commitment to stand up to social injustice and racial inequality."

While the Sheriff's Office enacted a new use of force policy on January 1, 2020 consistent with California Assembly Bill 392, Sheriff Miyamoto said he will update the policy to reaffirm the department's 30-year prohibition on the use of carotid restraint or chokehold.

The Sheriff's Office is also implementing early warning technology to identify deputized staff who may be at risk for future adverse behavior. Sheriff Miyamoto will continue de-escalation training of deputy sheriffs to include updates that address cultural competency issues.

Working with the city's Department of Human Resources and the Human Rights Commission, the Sheriff's Office will revise and continue implicit bias and inclusivity training for every member of the department. A key component of these updates will be the inclusion of community members to share their perspective and concerns.

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Sheriff Miyamoto is expanding the partnership with the Department of Police Accountability, an independent investigative body, to investigate a broader range of cases.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to participate in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity and the city's Human Rights Commission to support and advance equity in hiring and promotions and will seek assistance from both groups to create a Sheriff's Community Advisory Committee.

Other recent San Francisco Sheriff's Office reforms include:

- Groundbreaking procedures which accelerate the San Francisco Superior Court's Own Recognizance pre-arraignment release process that replaces monetary bail with the public assessment tool (PSA), which reduces decision-making bias. The PSA excludes factors such as race, gender, level of education, socioeconomic status and neighborhood.
- Closing County Jail #4 at the Hall of Justice, the third jail the Sheriff's Office has closed in 10 years, eliminating more than 1,100 beds.
- Financial justice reforms including free phone calls and elimination of commissary (store) mark-ups for incarcerated.

Led by elected Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, the San Francisco Sheriff's Office administers the county jails, provides safety services for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and carries out civil court orders. The Sheriff's Office employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees. Approximately 70 percent of SFSO's sworn workforce are people of color.