



London N. Breed  
Mayor

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 24, 2023

*Working at the intersection of health, safety, socioeconomics, politics and gender, the Department on the Status of Women has an expanded portfolio that prioritizes improving the whole lives of women, girls and nonbinary people through three core service areas: Health and Safety, Economic Security and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment.*

*With a focus on its three core service areas, the Department seeks to rebuild itself as the City's Watch Dog and Accountability Partner on all issues related to gender parity; Chief Advocate for equity in service delivery, employment opportunities, leadership development and budget allocation; and Master Convener - bringing people together inside and outside the City to collaborate on ideas, strategy and impactful action to help San Francisco transform into a fully gender equitable City.*

*Reorganized and reimagined to meet this post-Roe moment, today's Department on the Status of Women is one that is human-centered, informed by data and infused with confidence, conviction and clarity of purpose.*

*The items below reflect the Department's work towards building a more diverse and efficient San Francisco City and County government through gender-responsive and racially equitable policies and programs.*

### I. **EXECUTIVE**

N/A

### II. **ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS**

#### a. **Fiscal**

As we approach the Board of Supervisors' phase of the budget, the Department is working to provide the Budget and Legislative Analyst information on the current year budget by May 24 and the proposed budget by June 1. We are also working to craft a budget presentation that provides insight into how the call for budget reductions of 5% and 8% in December 2023, and the additional 5% in April 2024 over the next two fiscal years will impact the Department's operations.

b. **New Hires**

The Department would like to welcome new hires William Hassall and Hannah Cotter.

i. **William “Bill” Hassall**

William is an international affairs professional with 15+ years of experience in human rights, political affairs, gender empowerment, and democratization with CARE, The Carter Center and National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Hailing from Atlantic City, New Jersey. Bill will be working to improve the Department's grants management systems and processes to better support our grantees, as well as supporting the civic engagement and political empowerment portfolio.

Bill earned his Bachelor of Arts in Historical Studies from Stockton University before moving to Philadelphia to work in the environmental and media justice fields. He then attended the University of Glasgow where he earned a Master of Science in Human Rights and International Politics, a degree which centered on global human rights from a legal and political perspective. His degree culminated with the production of his thesis, which focused on perspectives of justice in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Over the past 15+ years, Bill has worked on human rights issues globally, including in the Balkans, Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Middle East, South America, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

He currently lives in San Francisco, California, with his wife, Marley, and their dog, Gilly.

ii. **Hannah Cotter**

Hannah Cotter is our new Program Manager for Health & Safety. Hannah will assist with the coordination and implementation of Department programs related to health, safety and wellness that enhance the status and well-being of women, girls and nonbinary people in the City and County of San Francisco.

Hannah is coming to the City and County of San Francisco from the US field office of Mercy Corps, an international NGO. Originally from Portland, Hannah graduated with an Environment, Economics, and Politics degree from Scripps College, in Claremont, CA. Since then, she has worked in San Francisco, Seattle and Southern Washington focusing on creating equitable banking, small business, and education opportunities.

Hannah is passionate about designing adaptable programs responsive to client and community input, especially historically excluded

stakeholders. She has worked jointly with city and county governments to run microlending, asset building, education, and COVID-19 emergency response programming. She is excited to be joining the Department to continue to work toward equity and the advancement of women throughout San Francisco.

### III. **COMMISSION**

N/A

### IV. **COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

#### a. **AANHPI Heritage Month**

This month is AANHPI (Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) Heritage Month. To acknowledge and celebrate the role of food in AANHPI communities as a vehicle for self-expression and community-building, Department staff is currently interviewing AANHPI women restaurant owners, managers and head chefs across the City for *DOSW on the Street: AANHPI Heritage Month Edition*. The series will also feature historically AANHPI neighborhoods like Chinatown, Japantown and Manilatown.

#### b. **Pride Month**

June is Pride Month, and the Department will be looking to interview and highlight queer women, especially queer women of color activists and leaders in San Francisco, as well as amplify events and activities that promote Pride and LGBTQIA+ rights. We welcome any recommendations from the Commission.

### V. **PROGRAMS, POLICY & REPORTING**

#### a. **Strategic Initiatives**

On May 19, the Department and its new grantee, the Gender Equity Policy Institute (GEPI), co-presented at the general membership meeting of the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) to educate and engage local public health stakeholders about the development of the San Francisco Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition (BAARC), as well as a regional abortion care service delivery assessment led by GEPI. BARHII is a regional coalition of 11 Bay Area public health departments, joined by over 200 community partners who work to advance health equity, economic opportunity and racial justice. BARHII passionately fights the structural inequities communities of color face by strengthening social and political inclusion, generating knowledge, training public servants and community leaders and advocating for equitable health

policies.

b. **Health & Safety**

The Department supported the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health with organizing a local gathering at San Francisco's City Hall on May 5 to recognize Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Day. The Department also worked with the Mayor's office to officially proclaim May 5<sup>th</sup> as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's (MMIW) Day in San Francisco to spotlight the women and girls who are overwhelmingly facing this crisis. The Department also coordinated and received letters of support from Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein to honor the day and show solidarity with the Indigenous community gathered at City Hall.

Last month, the Commission approved a sole source grant to Indigenous Justice to fund a larger MMIW event on June 2. The event will provide a safe space for Indigenous leaders, families and community members to gather, share about their lost loved ones and support each other through performances and songs.

c. **Economic Security**

The Department is continuing its work with Indigenous Justice and Cameo House to implement a Guaranteed Income Pilot and Micro Grant program to support Indigenous domestic violence survivors and justice-impacted women. DOSW anticipates an official launch for these pilots later this Summer.

d. **Civic Engagement & Political Empowerment**

N/A

a. **SF Bay Area SOL Collaborative**

The SF Bay Area SOL (Safety, Opportunity, and Lifelong Relationships) Collaborative continues to develop a continuum of care for youth involved in or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

SF Bay Area SOL works primarily works with youth in the foster care system, many of whom are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. In honor of National Foster Care Month this month, we recognize impacted youth and all that can be offered to support this population through the Collaborative.

The Collaborative hosted its first in-person retreat for project partners to align on deliverables and elements of the continuum, as well as define continuous performance improvement plans.

b. **Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women Grant**

The Department is coordinating with the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and the District Attorney's office to publish and disseminate the Domestic Violence Death Review Team's (DVDRT's) Pilot Report, which will be released at the end of this month. The report is an interdepartmental review of a fatal domestic violence incident that took place in San Francisco and provides recommendations to strengthen system policies and procedures, as well as identify prevention strategies to reduce future incidents of domestic violence-related injuries and deaths. The DVDRT Pilot was a collaboration between multiple departments and community-based advocates to evaluate and improve system responses. The report should serve as a foundation for the continued participation of City departments to engage, cooperate and hold each other accountable in reviewing coordinated community responses.

The Department is planning the second Quarterly Implementation Meeting of the year in June and continues to support Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence, La Casa de Las Madres and the Victim Services Division of the District Attorney's Office in their efforts to expand support services and coordinate data collection on the City-wide expansion of the high lethality assessment.

c. **Blue Shield Foundation Grant**

The HEALing Roots Collaborative is producing a podcast series that asks the question: what are the social and economic costs of domestic violence to the City and County of San Francisco? Through candid discussions with City departments and local community-based organizations who provide DV survivor facing services, the podcast hopes to highlight the issue of domestic violence in the LGBTQ+ community, the disparate economic and social effects on survivors of color and other relevant topics.

VI. **RESEARCH & DATA/ PROJECTS, STRATEGIC LEARNING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

a. **Research & Data**

This month, the Department started its Community Needs Assessment which will serve as an important tool for the Department to understand the issues facing different at-risk populations and to inform its funding and policymaking priorities. DOSW anticipates the project to be completed by the end of 2023.

The Department also finished its work on the Family Violence Council report. This report focuses on the prevalence of child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence in San Francisco, as well as how the City responds to these

issues. The Department partnered with the Data Angels team at Sheltertech to produce a data update to the Family Violence Council report. Our update provides multiple interactive dashboards analyzing the data of this report in an easily digestible manner. The insights from this data update have been summarized in an executive summary, which was provided to the Family Violence Council. The Department will also present these findings to the Family Violence Council this month.

Lastly, the Department has continued planning and designing its 2023 Gender Analysis of Commissions and Boards report. This report, completed every odd year, examines the gender breakdown of public Commissions and Boards in the City. Historically, this report has provided insight on the make-up of hundreds of individuals serving in over one hundred policy and advisory bodies, going beyond simple gender breakdowns to examine demographic representation by categories such as race, sexual orientation and veteran status.

VII. **GENERAL UPDATES**

N/A

VIII. **SPECIAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Looking forward, Saturday, June 24 will mark the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that resulted in the loss of the constitutional right to abortion. In response to this devastating anniversary, the Department in partnership with the San Francisco City Attorney's Office and Planned Parenthood Northern California will convene local government administrative stakeholders from BAARC to reaffirm our commitment to working in coordination, provide an update on the current complex legal landscape and present a possible framework for regional abortion care delivery.

IX. **CALENDAR**

**June**

*Friday, June 2*

*Thursday, June 15*

*Monday, June 19*

*Thursday, June 22*

*Sunday, June 25*

*Wednesday, June 28*

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Event*

*Budget Hearing*

*Holiday: Juneteenth*

*Budget Hearing*

*Pride Parade*

*Commission Meeting*