



The Police Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

December 4, 2024

Dear Honorable Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

At the meeting of the Police Commission on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION XX-X

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO AMEND SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMICIDE REWARD POLICY

CINDY ELIAS
President

MAX CARTER-OBERSTONE
Vice President

LARRY YEE
Commissioner

JESUS YANEZ
Commissioner

KEVIN BENEDICTO
Commissioner

DEBRA WALKER
Commissioner

C. DON CLAY
Commissioner

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary

WHEREAS, On October 19, 2022 the San Francisco Standard published an article entitled *SFPD Has Paid Zero Rewards to Solve Homicides for Nearly a Decade*, which disclosed that SFPD had not paid out a reward in an unsolved homicide case since 2013. SFPD has not paid a reward in a homicide case since that article was published.

WHEREAS, On May 8, 2024, the Police Commission held a public hearing to discuss SFPD's unsolved homicide reward policy, as well as the policies of other jurisdictions. The goal of the hearing was to learn from the successes and failures of other jurisdictions in hopes that San Francisco might adopt changes to its policy to render it more effective. In preparation for the hearing, the Department of Police Accountability (DPA) issued a survey to several other jurisdictions seeking information on their reward policies. At the hearing, DPA presented the results of that survey as well as information it obtained from other sources on the outcomes associated with reward policies in other cities. SFPD also presented on San Francisco's homicide reward policy.

WHEREAS, During that May 8, 2024 meeting, the Lieutenant in charge of SFPD's homicide unit observed that ensuring that anonymous tipsters could receive awards in unsolved homicide cases "would be a big help ... to solve some of these cases and bring closure." S.F. Police Commission of May 8, 2024 Meeting, Video Recording at 1:48:55-1:49:08, <http://tiny.cc/9nbxzz> (hereafter "May 8 Meeting"). Chief William Scott also remarked that "fear of retaliation" often dissuades potential tipsters from providing helpful information to SFPD and "accepting an award." May 8 Meeting at 1:58:20-1:58:34.

WHEREAS, This Resolution is dedicated to Ms. Paulette Brown, whose son, Aubrey Abrakasa, Jr., was tragically murdered on August 14, 2006, and whose killers have never been brought to justice. Ms. Brown attends every Police Commission meeting. She speaks with both vulnerability and unflinching clarity about the wrenching pain of her loss, and her hope that her son's murder might one day be solved. She has been relentless in her efforts to prod this Commission into action, not only on her son's behalf,



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but for every family affected by an unsolved murder. Today, we recognize her advocacy, courage, and commitment to holding this Commission and SFPD accountable.

RESOLVED, the Police Commission hereby urges the Board of Supervisors to amend S.F. Admin. Code § 10-100.306 and any other relevant provisions to reflect the following principles:

1. Rewards should be issued even when they do not result in a criminal conviction. Whether there is ultimately a conviction depends on a multitude of factors that have nothing to do with the reliability or quality of the information provided by a tipster. Rewards should instead be paid for information leading to criminal charges being instituted.
2. Rewards should be paid to anonymous tipsters, and all information relating to the identity of the tipster should be kept confidential to the fullest extent permitted by law, unless the tipster consents to having his or her identity made public.
3. Rewards should be paid regardless of whether the tipster has previously engaged in criminal misconduct. A criminal record (or suspected involvement in a crime) should not be the sole basis for declining to issue a reward.

AYES:

NAYS:

EXCUSED:

Very truly yours,

Sergeant Stacy Youngblood
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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cc: Deputy City Attorney Cabrera
Director L. Preston/SFPD Labor Relations
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Captain C. Del Gandio/PDD
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