City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women

Mayor
Daniel Lurie

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Joint Special Meeting – Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee and Commission on the Status of Women

Thursday, October 8, 2026

10:00 am
City Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 250

COMMISSION ROSTER

Commission President	Diane Jones Lowrey (Present)
Commission Vice President	Ani Rivera (Present)
Commissioner	Sophia Andary (Present)
Commissioner	Cecila Chung (Excused)
Commissioner	Dr. Shokooh Miry (Present)
Commissioner	Dr. Anne Moses (Present)
Commissioner	Dr. Raveena Rihal (Present)

Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee members present: Chair Danny Sauter, Bilal Mahmood, and Alan Wong

All Board of Supervisor members present: Supervisors Sauter, Mahmood, Wong, Melgar, Dorsey, Chan, Fielder, and Chen

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER: DISCUSSION

Chair Sauter called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Board Clerk, Monique Crayton, presented announcements.

Ms. Dominique Blakely performed roll call and confirmed that 6 out of 7 Status of Women Commissioners present (quorum).

II. Joint Hearing – Staffing Needs, Policies, and Procedures Responding to Sexual Assault (Sponsors, Melgar; Dorsey, Chen, Fielder, and Sauter)

Chair Sauter opened the meeting and passed the microphone to Supervisor Melgar, who p resided over the meeting.

Supervisor Melgar provided opening remarks and then passed the microphone to President Diane Jones Lowrey, who also provided remarks.

Supervisor Melgar then introduced Ivy Lee, Director of the Mayor's Office of Victims' Rights (MOVR), who delivered a presentation. During the presentation, Director Lee shared the microphone with Leila Carrillo, Director of Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP).

Supervisor Melgar thanked MOVR for its presentation and invited San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Chief of Police Derrick Lew to present. During the presentation, Chief Lew introduced Assistant Chief Nicole Jones to discuss the Special Victims Unit (SVU). Assistant Chief

Jones then introduced Captain William Toomey, who discussed changes and plans for measuring progress.

Supervisor Melgar thanked MOVR, SHARP, and SFPD for their presentations and opened the floor to questions from her colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and COSW Commissioners, beginning with Supervisor Connie Chan.

Supervisor Chan

Supervisor Chan asked about the City's resources and services available to survivors whose cases are classified as open or inactive. Director Lee and Captain Toomey responded. Supervisor Melgar followed up to clarify Captain Toomey's explanation of the probable cause standard. Assistant Chief Jones acknowledged that there may still be room for improvement.

Supervisor Mahmood

Supervisor Mahmood asked why a case might fail to meet the probable cause standard when the suspect is known and what additional evidence may be needed beyond a survivor's account. Captain Toomey responded, followed by further discussion. Assistant Chief Jones clarified how SFPD works with the District Attorney's Office. Director Lee emphasized that cases should not be prematurely classified as inactive solely because they are perceived as failing to meet the probable cause standard.

Supervisor Fielder

Supervisor Fielder requested clarification on the classification "Suspicious Acts Toward Females." Assistant Chief Jones explained that officers may use this classification when an incident does not meet the elements of a specific crime. She noted that the outdated reporting system is being updated to align with national standards.

Supervisor Fielder asked when this classification is applied instead of sexual assault or domestic violence. Chief Lew and Captain Toomey

explained that cases with this classification are still referred to SVU for review, where investigators assess the details of the police report to determine whether a crime occurred and whether further investigation is warranted.

Supervisor Fielder also asked how many cases currently carry this classification, how SFPD plans to expand trauma-informed training, why cases involving DNA matches may be classified as inactive or fail to meet probable cause standards, what policies govern pretextual calls from victims to suspects, and why the number of investigators handling sex crimes has declined. Captain Toomey, Assistant Chief Jones, and Chief Lew responded.

Supervisor Dorsey

Supervisor Dorsey asked whether establishing probable cause means a case has been cleared. Assistant Chief Jones clarified that probable cause does not automatically result in an arrest, as further action and consultation with the District Attorney's Office may be required.

Supervisor Dorsey also asked how SFPD's practices differ from those of other counties. Assistant Chief Jones explained that SFPD typically consults with the District Attorney's Office before making arrests rather than seeking arrest warrants independently.

Supervisor Dorsey further asked about turnover within SVU and whether issues related to the assignment should be addressed. Assistant Chief Jones noted that many SVU investigators have extensive experience while acknowledging the need for additional patrol officer training in sexual assault response and survivor-centered practices.

Supervisor Wong

Supervisor Wong asked SFPD to clarify how it plans to improve communication with survivors, including providing regular updates and notifying them of significant developments in their cases. Captain Toomey explained that investigators are expected to contact survivors at least every 30 days and notify them of significant developments.

Supervisor Wong also asked about the training requirements for officers seeking to qualify as investigators. Assistant Chief Jones explained that investigators must complete the Institute of Criminal Investigations (ICI) core course. SVU investigators must also complete specialized training in sexual assault, child abuse, and domestic violence. Supervisor Wong asked additional questions about reinforcing expectations and improving academy and patrol officer training. Assistant Chief Jones discussed planned improvements.

Supervisor Chen

Supervisor Chen asked whether SFPD would contact other survivors and reconsider inactive sexual assault cases if additional victims came forward with similar allegations against the same suspect. She also asked about SFPD's role in responding to sexual assaults on school campuses.

Assistant Chief Jones discussed SFPD's response to these cases and considerations involving minors.

Supervisor Wong asked whether demographic and immigration status information is tracked, whether language interpretation services are available, and whether officers receive training in cultural competency and outreach to help immigrant survivors feel comfortable coming forward. Assistant Chief Jones responded.

Chair Sauter

Chair Sauter asked how often SVU cases are reassigned and what steps SFPD can take to minimize reassignment and reduce the need for survivors to recount their experiences repeatedly.

Captain Toomey explained that the goal is for survivors to recount their experiences only twice: once to the initial responding officer and once to the investigator assigned to the case. He also clarified that reassignment is not standard practice. Chair Sauter asked additional questions about SVU's structure, and Captain Toomey responded.

President Jones Lowrey

Following up on Supervisor Chen's question, President Jones Lowrey asked how SFPD handles sexual assault cases involving minors, including whether officers receive specialized training and work with community-based organizations to protect minors' safety and well-being. Assistant Chief Jones confirmed that officers receive specialized training related to cases involving children.

Vice President Rivera

Vice President Rivera expressed concern about confusion surrounding probable cause and the high percentage of inactive cases. She urged SFPD to accelerate its plans beyond the June 2027 timeline and asked whether SFPD would meet confidentially with the Mayor's Office of Victims' Rights and trusted community leaders to review previously inactive cases and rebuild survivors' trust.

Assistant Chief Jones expressed willingness to pursue this approach following the completion of the City Attorney's review.

Commissioner Miry

Commissioner Miry emphasized the importance of centering survivors, their families, and the community in sexual assault investigations. She asked what accountability mechanisms would be established, who would oversee them, how often reviews would occur, and how survivors and community members would be included.

Chief Lew expressed openness to establishing quarterly forums with community experts to review progress, discuss trends and accountability metrics, and build trust.

Commissioner Miry also asked about the status of FEDI training and whether SFPD's goal is to have 100% of investigators complete the training, given that none had completed it at the time of the meeting. Assistant Chief Jones confirmed the goal and discussed challenges

related to implementation. Chief Lew emphasized the department's commitment to improvement.

Commissioner Moses

Commissioner Moses asked how SFPD would measure whether trauma-informed training improves survivors' experiences and the quality of care they receive, beyond numerical performance metrics.

Captain Toomey explained that supervisors would review case files and that SFPD is exploring independent audits to assess investigative quality. Commissioner Moses emphasized the importance of regularly gathering survivor feedback through community partners. Assistant Chief Jones agreed that quarterly forums with advocates and partner agencies could help identify areas for improvement.

Commissioner Andary

Commissioner Andary asked whether survivors reporting sexual assault to SVU are provided access to a victim advocate or support person. Assistant Chief Jones acknowledged that communication about these resources may be insufficient and committed to improving survivors' awareness that they can request a support person during interviews.

Supervisor Melgar

Supervisor Melgar asked whether SFPD has a classification similar to "Suspicious Acts Toward Females" for incidents involving gay men or gender-nonconforming individuals. Assistant Chief Jones explained that such incidents may be categorized in multiple ways and expressed hope that the new records management system would provide greater consistency and control over classifications.

Public Comment:

All speakers spoke on various concerns relating to the hearing matter.

1. Julie Soo – former Commissioner on the Status of Women

2. Anya
3. Martin Rawlings – Senior Co-Chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club
4. Speaker
5. Robin Latchford – District eight resident
6. Jessica Dayton – Attorney of domestic abuse and sexual assault
7. Brad Chapin
8. Speaker
9. Elisha Jussen Cooke – Supervising Victim's Rights Attorney at CROC
10. Emberly Cross- Coordinating Attorney at CROC
11. Norma – CROC
12. Que Que – Intern at MOVR and DPA fellow
13. Skye Thompson
14. Darien Johnston
15. Chelsea – Co-President of SFWPC
16. Jordan
17. Dr. Sarah Metz – Director for Division of Trauma Services; Chair of SF Sexual Assault Team
18. Speaker
19. Beverly Upton – Director of DVC
20. Sunny Angulo
21. Justus Dumloa
22. Carolina
23. Carrie Barlow – Staff Attorney at CROC

Supervisor Melgar provided closing remarks.

Chair Sauter moved that this Hearing be HEARD AND FILED. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: 3 - Sauter, Mahmood, Wong

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned.