



SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

October 26, 2021

The Honorable Supervisors Mar, Stefani, and Haney
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Via email to
CC: Clerk John Carroll [John.Carroll@sfgov.org]

RE: Ordinance on Domestic Violence Data Reporting, File #210605 – SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee:

On behalf of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC), we are writing in strong support of File #210605, the proposed ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Police Department and the District Attorney to submit quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors regarding the number of cases of domestic violence. This legislation, if passed, would provide crucial data relating to domestic violence trends in San Francisco, including but not limited to changes in reports of domestic violence and information on the progression of domestic violence cases.

SFWPC's mission is to endorse, empower, and elect people as candidates for local office who self-identify as women and those who share our values. SFWPC champions policies and candidates committed to advancing intersectional feminism, racial justice, gender equity, and equitable systems and structures through participation in the San Francisco political process. SFWPC endorses policies that promote transparency, justice, equity, and the safety of all in our communities. Striving to improve services and outcomes for those experiencing domestic violence is vital to advancing those objectives.

Domestic violence is a crime that disproportionately impacts women+ in San Francisco¹ and the conditions of the pandemic have exacerbated already troubling domestic violence statistics. Numerous studies², including reports from local service organizations³, show that shelter-in-

¹ *Family Violence Council Report July 01, 2019 – June 30, 2020*, San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, By Selma Osman and Elise Hansell, July 2021
<https://sfgov.org/dosw/sites/default/files/FY%202020%20Family%20Violence%20Council%20Report%20Executive%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>

² *COVID-19 Isolation Linked to Increased Domestic Violence, Researchers Suggest*, University of California, Davis, By Karen Nikos-Rose, February 24, 2021 <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/covid-19-isolation-linked-increased-domestic-violence-researchers-suggest>
Domestic Violence Is a Pandemic Within the COVID-19 Pandemic, TIME, Jeffrey Kluger, February 3, 2021
<https://time.com/5928539/domestic-violence-covid-19/>. *The Pandemic Spurred a Domestic Violence Epidemic. It's Not Over Yet.*, California Health Report, By Claudia Boyd-Barrett, July 29, 2021
<https://www.calhealthreport.org/2021/07/29/the-pandemic-spurred-a-domestic-violence-epidemic-its-not-over-yet/>

³ Domestic violence rises in Bay Area during coronavirus shutdown, victim advocates say, San Francisco Chronicle, By Michael Cabanatuan, April 8, 2020 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/Domestic-violence-increases-in-Bay-Area-during-15188087.php>



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place orders have led to an increase in incidents of domestic violence. As society reopens, we must continue to advance policies and practices that support victims and survivors of domestic violence.

The City and County of San Francisco currently does not have detailed reporting related to domestic violence making it difficult to understand the full scope of the problem and whether patterns exist. The proposed ordinance would mandate that the Police Department and District Attorney's Office track and report quarterly on important data points around domestic violence reports, responses, and cases. This information will provide much needed transparency as to the extent of this abusive behavior and will help City leaders better allocate adequate resources for victims and survivors.

For these reasons, SFWPC supports the proposed **Ordinance on Domestic Violence Data Reporting (File #210605)** and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

SFWPC Board of Directors