

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2024

To: Brooke Jenkins, District Attorney, Office of the District Attorney
William Scott, Police Chief, Police Department

From: *ACC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors

Subject: Urging the District Attorney and SFPD to Release Information Brought by the SFPD that Deemed the Incident an Accident in the Case of Yanfang Wu's Death (File No. 240273)

On March 26, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 140-24, sponsored by President Aaron Peskin (File No. 240273, Urging the District Attorney and SFPD to Release Information Brought by the SFPD that Deemed the Incident an Accident in the Case of Yanfang Wu's Death); enacted on April 5, 2024.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your office's information and consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Aaron Peskin,
Shamann Walton, Connie Chan, Ahsha Safai, Dean Preston
Tom Paulino, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Ana Gonzalez, Office of the District Attorney
Eugene Clendinen, Office of the District Attorney
Lily Rapson, Office of the District Attorney
Lisa Ortiz, Police Department
Lili Gamero, Police Department
Rima Malouf, Police Department
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department
Carl Nicita, Police Department

1 [Urging the District Attorney and SFPD to Release Information Brought by the SFPD that
2 Deemed the Incident an Accident in the Case of Yanfang Wu's Death]

3 **Resolution urging the District Attorney and the San Francisco Police Department**
4 **(SFPD) to release police investigation reports, witness accounts, and video information**
5 **related to the death of Yanfang Wu on July 3, 2023, that formed the factual basis to**
6 **determine the incident an “accidental death,” as well as an accounting of what**
7 **culturally-competent and in-language victims’ support resources, if any, were offered**
8 **to Mrs. Wu’s surviving family on behalf of the City and what preventative steps were**
9 **taken to ensure the released suspect was evaluated and provided treatment, or other**
10 **services.**

11
12 WHEREAS, On July 3, 2023, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) responded
13 to a report of an aggravated assault that occurred in the area around 3rd Street and Egbert
14 Avenue where officers found a 63-year-old female victim, Yanfang Wu, lying on the ground
15 with life-threatening injuries, who later succumbed to those injuries in the hospital on July 7,
16 2023; and

17 WHEREAS, On July 6, 2023, the SFPD issued a statement reporting that SFPD’s
18 Homicide Detail Unit was leading an investigation, including an Assistant District Attorney
19 (ADA), into Mrs. Wu’s death as a potential homicide, after receiving witness accounts that an
20 unknown female suspect had pushed Mrs. Wu to the ground; and

21 WHEREAS, Per standard homicide investigation procedure, the SFPD Homicide Detail
22 Unit assigned to the case interviewed witnesses, reviewed video footage of the incident, and
23 interviewed a detained person of interest, but ultimately determined, with the participation of
24 the On Call Homicide ADA, not to pursue an arrest beyond the initial detention or file charges;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, On August 21, 2023, the SFPD released a press statement deeming the
2 case closed after determining in consultation with the District Attorney’s Office that Mrs. Wu’s
3 death was actually an “accidental death”; and

4 WHEREAS, Given the “accidental death” determination, it is unclear what steps were
5 taken by the Homicide Detail Unit and assigned ADA to ensure that the suspect was not
6 released directly back into the population without a thorough psychological and health
7 evaluation and appropriate treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, Because Mrs. Wu’s death was ruled as an “accidental death”, her husband
9 was not eligible for the county-funded victim services that are currently housed within the
10 District Attorney’s Office, and it is not clear what resources, if any, were actually offered and
11 afforded him before he ultimately made the decision to move back to China after the loss of
12 his wife; and

13 WHEREAS, The percipient witness in this case was an elderly monolingual Cantonese
14 speaker, and it is not clear that a Cantonese-fluent (versus Cantonese-certified) interviewer
15 was present and conducted the interview of the percipient witness; and

16 WHEREAS, On March 8, 2024, the District Attorney’s Office announced that Thea
17 Hopkins is being charged in connection to an attack on a 71-year-old monolingual Cantonese-
18 speaking woman, also in the Bayview neighborhood; and

19 WHEREAS, A media outlet later revealed that Ms. Hopkins was also the same person
20 of interest that the SFPD detained and then released after Mrs. Yanfang Wu was pushed and
21 killed in July 2023, after the Homicide Detail Unit and ADA determined it an “accidental
22 death;” and

23 WHEREAS, A diversity of community-based organizations have raised awareness of
24 this case and are circulating petitions with demands that include the release of the
25 investigation details of Mrs. Wu’s death, which is of particularly urgent interest for the AAPI

1 communities in the wake of a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic;
2 now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 take seriously the need to ensure the thorough and equal application of the law so that all
5 communities, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or English-language
6 capability, benefit from the full implementation of fair and transparent investigations and
7 expedient legal follow-up, access to culturally competent victims' services, and a clear
8 understanding of the City's plan for crime prevention in the future; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Police
10 Department (SFPD) and District Attorney's Office to increase their engagement with the
11 community by providing an accessible venue for victim-centered and community-informed
12 care, where direct service providers and the victims and families of victims that they support
13 can ask questions, understand what information they are entitled to during the investigation
14 period, and receive a clear explanation of what the process is supposed to look like; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in the interest of transparency and building trust in the
16 criminal justice system, the Board of Supervisors urges the District Attorney and the San
17 Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to release police investigation reports, witness
18 accounts, and video information related to the death of Yanfang Wu on July 3, 2023, that
19 formed the factual basis to determine the incident an "accidental death", as well as an
20 accounting of what culturally-competent and in-language victims' support resources, if any,
21 were offered to Mrs. Wu's surviving family on behalf of the City and what preventative steps
22 were taken to ensure the released suspect was evaluated and provided treatment, or other
23 services.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 240273

Date Passed: March 26, 2024

Resolution urging the District Attorney and the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to release police investigation reports, witness accounts, and video information related to the death of Yanfang Wu on July 3, 2023, that formed the factual basis to determine the incident an "accidental death," as well as an accounting of what culturally-competent and in-language victims' support resources, if any, were offered to Mrs. Wu's surviving family on behalf of the City and what preventative steps were taken to ensure the released suspect was evaluated and provided treatment, or other services.

March 26, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 240273

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/26/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

04-05-2024

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

04-05-2024

Date