

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

**AARON PESKIN**

September 12, 2017

Christopher Wirowek, Director  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
City and County of San Francisco  
Hall of Justice  
850 Bryant Street - North Terrace  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Director Wirowek:

Supervisors Peskin and Kim have called for a hearing on San Francisco's coordinated preparation and response to the record-breaking September 1 - 3, 2017 heat wave (File no. 170962), and ask that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner present at the Government Audit and Oversight committee hearing scheduled for September 20. Please be advised of the following questions:

- Please describe the following criteria: What is the definition of deaths caused by heat? Is there a list of types of deaths that fall under this specific category, e.g. heat stroke, conditions exacerbated by extreme heat, etc.? How are deaths caused by the failure of hospital equipment that became overheated identified?
- According to DPH's website home page, vulnerable residents during a heat wave, include "People taking medications that affect their body's ability to stay hydrated and respond to heat. This includes: medications used to treat high blood pressure and heart problems (beta-blockers, diuretics), those used to reduce allergy symptoms (antihistamines), those used to calm you (tranquilizers), those used to reduce psychiatric symptoms such as delusions (antipsychotics) and other medications that disrupt the regulation of body temperature." How are deaths of people taking these sorts of medications categorized during a heat wave?
- What was the death toll for SF County during the weekend of the heat wave (September 1 – 3), broken down by day, and by the neighborhood in which the deaths occurred?

- Given that we typically have hot weather in September, how many deaths have been reported on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday of an early September weekend over the last five years? Please break down this data by day, and by the neighborhood in which the deaths occurred.

Thank you for your response to these inquiries. I respectfully request to have ME's response submitted to the Clerk, as well as members of the GAO committee, by Tuesday morning, September 19. I look forward to the September 20 hearing. If you have any questions, please contact my office and my legislative aide, Beth Rubenstein at 415-554-7453 or [beth.rubenstein@sfgov.org](mailto:beth.rubenstein@sfgov.org)



Aaron Peskin