

From: [Adele Failes Carpenter](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 240389: [Hearing - Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations]
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 11:44:07 AM

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

I am the coordinator of Project SURVIVE, City College of San Francisco's 30-year-old sexual violence prevention peer education program and Women's and Gender Studies faculty at CCSF. I hope today's hearing can serve to clarify and support SHARP's ongoing work to see our public systems are responsive to the needs of survivors, and I also hope supervisors will take note of the meaningful work the office has done to reach the two-thirds of survivors who do not report being sexually assaulted. The SHARP office has been a valuable partner in our efforts to expand sexual violence prevention education and leadership development opportunities for survivors of gender-based violence at City College and in our school-based work in SFUSD high schools with the Expect Respect SF collaborative. We have worked with them closely on convening providers with the gender-based violence prevention collective and supporting and amplifying the work of student leaders at CCSF and SFUSD through internships, student summits, and public events and programming, all of which have contributed meaningfully to the work that we do to build the leadership of survivors and directly impacted communities.

Thank you,

--

Adele Failes-Carpenter (she/her)
Women's and Gender Studies Faculty &
Project SURVIVE Coordinator

Connect with us! Websites: www.ccsf.edu/survive | www.ccsf.edu/women
Instagram: [@projectsurvive](#) | [@ccsfwomen_and_gender](#) | [@ccsfwrc](#)



W.O.M.A.N., INC.

**26 Boardman Place
San Francisco, CA 94103
Crisis Line: 415.864.4722
877.DVHELPU
www.womaninc.org**

Hello my name is Stephanie Colorado, I write on behalf of W.O.M.A.N. INC, Woman Organized to Make Abuse Non Existent I represent 6 people who feel similarly to me.

We want to elevate the work and deep commitment that SHARP has established within the community. SHARP centered the needs and request of the community. SHARP has worked with survivors who do not report.

We've worked with Dulce Garcia and KellyLou Densmore/SHARP in this way by brining up the issues of housing, youth and student safety, prevention education and awareness and community healing through attending the gender-based violence prevention collection meetings.

Stephanie Colorado
Latinx Program Co-Manager
415-969-6818 | stephanie@womaninc.org

From: [Shella Cervantes](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 240389: [Hearing - Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations]
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 2:20:00 PM

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

I am a faculty member with the Women's and Gender Studies department at City College of San Francisco that teaches dual enrollment courses at Mission High School in a program called the Public Health Pathway, where my students learn theory, train in skills, and get field experience in sexual violence prevention, advocacy, and student leadership.

The SHARP office supports my dual enrollment SFUSD students in various ways, including a yearly internship site where Mission High Seniors practice the skills and theory they learned in their course work with me and prepare for their capstone project; yearly assistance in sending Public Health Pathway students to the "Shift Happens" Women's Policy Summit, where they learn directly from organizations and programs how they are working towards a gender equitable future; and programs and events like the Youth Self Defense Class where my students and other SFUSD students gained skills to protect themselves and their community. The SHARP office is a vital partner of our Public Health Pathway as we grow successful student leaders that practice at their school skills to engage in community work, succeed in college when they leave Mission High, and to work toward careers that they are passionate about that are supported by their experience working at the intersection of sexual violence prevention and public health.

I want to emphasize the successful partnership between the Public Health Pathway and SHARP and the critical, vital work that our programs are doing together.

Best,

Shella Muzelle Cervantes (They/Them)
Women's and Gender Studies Instructor
Women's Resource Center Faculty Adviser
City College of San Francisco
50 Frida Kahlo Way, SF 94112

From: [Janetta Johnson](#)
To: [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for SHARP
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:06:13 PM

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

We are Zy'aire Nassirah, Co-Executive Director and Janetta Johnson CEO of TGIJP Black Cultural Center. Our mission is to build the collective power of Black trans folks, centering Black trans women and especially those of us who have been or are currently incarcerated. We work in collaboration with others to forge a culture of resistance and resilience to strengthen us for the fight against human rights abuses, imprisonment, police violence, racism, poverty, and societal pressures. We seek to create a world rooted in self-determination, freedom of expression, and gender justice. Our members are low-income transgender women.

I am writing on behalf of TGIJP BCC and the larger Black transgender community in SF. We'd like to elevate the work and deep commitment that SHARP has established within the community.

Like us, SHARP centers the needs and requests of the community. SHARP has worked with survivors of gender-based violence and sexual violence who do not report to the police.

TGIJP contacted Dulce Garcia and KellyLou Densmore at SHARP when a few of TGIJP's members (Black trans women who were houseless at the time) were being violently harassed and attacked by a city employee who was in a contracted position working with the Department of Public Works. We filed a complaint with SHARP and they responded to advocate for us and our community.

SHARP worked with our organization and our members for over a year to address the issue, hold the city accountable, and to ensure that violence towards Black trans

women by city employees never happens again. They met with us regularly, and hosted meetings with us and the Office of Transgender Initiatives in order to develop a training program for city employees who interface with transgender people.

SHARP has been a bridge between our members and city government and has been a very important resource for us to turn to when we don't want to go to the police when our community experiences violence.

We thank you for your time and wholeheartedly express our support for SHARP.

Sincerely,

Janetta Johnson, CEO TGIJPCC

Zy'aire Nassirah, Co-Executive Director TGIJPCC



May 8, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
angela.calvillo@sfgov.org
Monique Crayton
Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
monique.crayton@sfgov.org
Jackie Prager
Legislative Aide for Supervisor Ronen
jackie.prager@sfgov.org
Sam Logan
Legislative Aide for Supervisor Stefani
sam.logan@sfgov.org

Re: Public Comment for 240389 - Hearing on Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations.

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

I am writing to convey my appreciation and support of the Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) for centering survivors of sexual violence. I am an attorney and psychologist who has spent the last couple decades advocating for transgender and gender variant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in carceral systems. Through KellyLou Densmore's leadership and organizing efforts, coalitions of advocates and survivors have been born. I have been fortunate to be among the many people KellyLou has called in to address gender-based and sexual violence at the state and local levels.

Over the years, KellyLou has formed and led coalitions of local and national organizations that have centered the voices, dignity, agency, safety and healing of survivors and those most impacted. Though these efforts, multi-disciplinary teams have been built and resources deployed to develop multipronged efforts that engaged survivors inside carceral systems. Direct advocacy structures were developed to ensure survivors' needs were prioritized. These organized efforts enabled advocates to connect with those most impacted to ensure their voices were centered in legislative and policy initiatives. Direct advocacy led to public education campaigns that simultaneously called for government action. Education and prevention efforts informed by those most impacted promoted systemic changes that increased the health and safety of people inside carceral systems. It is apparent that these same values and strategies are reflected in KellyLou's leadership of SHARP.

In recent years, my firm, along with the Transgender, Gender Variant, Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP), has worked with SHARP to identify ways to support transgender survivors of sexual violence in the San Francisco County Jail. Among those survivors was our client, Ms. Lyn

Jen Orthwein, Esq. Ph.D. • 2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 • (510) 210-0889
jen@orthweinlaw.com

Rawles. SHARP's primary focus was ensuring our client's immediate needs were met and that she was safe and had the support and resources she needed following her traumatic carceral experience. We had faced a great deal of resistance from government agencies unwilling to investigate our client's claims or provide us any information related to her time in custody. Other government agencies to which Ms. Rawles had turned only seemed motivated to protect those responsible for the harm she had experienced in custody. SHARP was there to ensure Ms. Rawles's voice and needs were prioritized. SHARP then worked to educate our team about the current systems responsible for holding government entities and employees accountable. Together, SHARP and our legal team made out a list of possible reforms that our legal team could propose to ensure our clients' experiences were never replicated.

SHARP has become a crucial and necessary vehicle in San Francisco's response to sexual violence. Survivors' needs are too often dismissed or ignored within the systems responsible for addressing the sexual violence perpetrated against them. SHARP cares about survivors of sexual violence and holding San Francisco's city agencies accountable for how they treat survivors so that the healing process can begin. Centering survivors is crucial to any system that aims to address and ultimately eradicate sexual violence. City resources and support for SHARP should be increased so that San Francisco can effectively meet and prioritize survivors in its response to sexual violence and meet its objective to prevent it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JO', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Orthwein

Cc: Office of Sexual Assault Response and Prevention
sharp@sfgov.org

From: [Dominique Cowling](#)
To: [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 240389: [Hearing - Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations]
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:41:12 PM

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

My name is Dominique Cowling, I am here on behalf of community advocates & healers who are dedicated to centering survivors of violence in their practice.

I want to elevate the work and deep commitment that SHARP has established within the community. From the beginning of their inception, SHARP has worked to center marginalized survivors who do not report to the police for a plethora of reasons. Throughout the years I've worked with survivors who identify as LGBTQ and BIPOC who have painfully only experienced negative interactions with law enforcement.

Knowing this, the team at SHARP directly connected me to survivors who were seeking emotional support and brainstormed ways to get additional resources when requested. I also attended the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Collective meetings that acted as a resource sharing opportunity for the specific communities we were supporting.

I worked with Dulce Garcia during my time as the Healing Justice Program Director at one of the oldest LGBTQ organizations in San Francisco. We hosted an online conversation about healing and accessibility that was available to our networks of local and international advocates. This conversation illuminated the need for this work to be more inclusive, grounded and community led.

In addition, I have personally experienced Dulce's commitment to interrupting cycles of violence and harm. I was honored to facilitate a somatic healing workshop series that Dulce participated in that revealed even more of her strength & resilience. Her steadfast commitment to authenticity and embodied leadership is deeply admirable. During a time where most of our leaders are focused on blame and punishment, we are so lucky to have an example of leadership like hers that is rooted in care, honesty and compassion.

Dominique

--

Apply for Nourishing the Seeds of Intimacy [here](#)

Dominique Cowling (she, her)

Founder of Black Seeds Project

Nature Based Facilitator and Restorative Yoga Teacher

linktr.ee/blackseedsproject1



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

Hello, my name is Nicole Santamaria, and I am an Intersex, Indigenous, Immigrant/Refugee, and survivor who is writing on behalf of El/La Para TransLatinas.

My pronouns are She and We (due to my indigenous tradition, The “I” can not exist without The “We” or The Community) and, following the holistic principles of the organization that I belong to, I/We represent 10 staff members, 5 board members and 400+ participants, all people who are and feel similar to me.

We want to elevate the work and deep commitment that SHARP has established within the community. SHARP has centered the needs and requests of the community, for example listening to El/La’s concerns around the housing crisis, advocating for the TransLatinx community, and more. SHARP has worked with survivors who do not report and those who are in the margins like us.

We work with Dulce Garcia and KellyLou Densmore at SHARP as grantees of the HRC of the City of San Francisco. Dulce and KellyLou have worked diligently to ensure SHARP’s continued support of the life-saving services that El/La provides to the trans/intersex/gender diverse Latinx community who are majority monolingual, low income, immigrant individuals - many of whom have participated in survival sex work. Our participants live at the intersection of transphobia, xenophobia, racism, and classism, and ALL of them have experienced violence as a result, including many who have survived sexual assault and/or harassment. The San Francisco HRC is our largest funder and our partnership with SHARP as grantees is critical to the functioning of all of our programs including:

- Peer Advocacy & Resource Navigation (linkage & accompaniment to housing, healthcare, mental healthcare, legal assistance, employment, education and more),
- Health & Rights Educational Workshops
- Confidential Support Groups
- Community Gatherings
- Leadership Development Programs
- Public Visibility Events
- Grant-Giving Programs for Emergency Aid (addressing housing and food insecurity) and Gender-Affirming Surgery Support

KellyLou and Dulce have been strong allies in El/La’s work to support the trans/intersex/gender diverse Latinx community and have recognized the value of, and urgent need for, the services we provide. They accompany us in our moments of sorrow, grief and despair when one of us has suffered any type of violence. As a survivor myself, I have been invited to provide classes at different Universities, not only in California but nationwide, and I have always listed SHARP as one of the resources the City and County of San Francisco has for those who have suffered the unimaginable.

They have helped me several times in sensitive matters when a TransLatina has experienced gender based violence including rape, sexual assault and harrassment. Our work, like roots, grows quietly but surely.

I'm also part of the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Collective meetings that help us all to normalize and make visible the disproportionate violence that the Trans, Intersex and Gender Diverse community experience on a daily basis.

Sincerely,



M.A. Nicole Santamaria
Executive Director
El/La Para TransLatinas
nicole@ellaparatranslatinas.org
415-574-9783

From: [Nicole Henares](#)
To: [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Subject: STATEMENT FOR TOMORROW'S HEARING
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 5:01:34 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco's Sexual Harassment And Prevention office has been trying to support me for the last three years despite the statute of limitations around sexual battery and the complexity of a federally investigated history of sexual violence that for decades whenever I tried to talk about I would lose my capacity for speech and go into convulsions.

Since coming forward about this history, I have been harassed, publicly humiliated, and terrorized. In the fall of 2022 I was suspended for fifteen days without pay and forced to go on leave due to allegations of discriminating against white males while my abuser, a convicted murderer who has victimized me throughout my life, sometimes at gunpoint, has kept his position and his paycheck as a director of a city funded organization with numerous allegations of sexual assault.

If this is how I'm being treated as a federal crime victim who has two graduate degrees and is a veteran teacher with almost 23 years of service in SFUSD and no discipline on my record until my abuser's 2019 parole, then what does this mean for other victims in San Francisco, in particular unhoused victims, whom the SHARP office has also been trying to support?

The city of San Francisco needs to extend the reporting time for sexual battery, and do more to understand the challenges victims of sexual violence have when they come forward.

The word "rape" is a difficult enough word to say or write. In order for me to be believed no one should have to show what has been in federal evidence for over forty years- photographs where I was raped and tortured by my abuser that were taken by his mentor, a former US Army staff sergeant and convicted child pornographer, who is currently facing charges for the rape and murder of a five year old girl in 1982. The specific details that I am able to finally find the words for about what was done to me should be enough, especially as what is in the photos show patterns to other murders, including the murder that my abuser's mentor is currently being charged with, and the 1979 San Francisco cold case murder of Jane, the girlfriend of Faerie Rainbow one of the designers of the Pride flag.

I request that the city of San Francisco do more to support victims of sexual violence and harassment. Additionally, I hope that the politicized, racialized, and gendered power plays

in San Francisco will stop and people will come together. We have to- there are things that have been happening that are destroying the soul and spirit of our city.

San Francisco has a choice right now what kind of city it wants to be- If it will finally hold my abuser accountable for the ways he has exploited the extensiveness of our history and the harm that he has caused upon his parole, as all the discipline I've received at my work can be traced back to him via third party.

--

Nicole Henares

<http://www.aurelialorca.com>

From: [HSU, EMMA](#)
To: [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Cc: [NGO, KASSIE](#); [MIA CHAN](#); [SUSANNA ZHANG](#); [RAVEN LACHANCE](#); [AUDREY PARKER](#); [CARMEN ZHU](#); [KARINA LOUIE](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 240389: [Hearing - Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations]
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:57:24 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Emma Hsu, an outgoing sophomore at George Washington High School. I write to you on behalf of the Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA) Club, representing not only the twenty students at Washington but the SASA clubs within the entire school district. We want to highlight the work and deep commitment SHARP has established within the community.

We firmly believe that it is absolutely essential to keep and continue funding SHARP, for they have always centered their attention on the needs and requests of the community. They're the ones that bridge the gap between survivors and city officials. Without SHARP, sexual assault survivors would not be able to receive justice. When government agencies fail to bring adequate change, it is SHARP who listens and takes action. SHARP interacts with the community directly, making sure survivors are heard and accurately represented, so that positive change can be made in our city. By being tied to the government, SHARP can be our voices that help the city create the necessary changes in policies addressing sexual assault and harrassment.

On a personal level and as part of SASA, I have worked with SHARP countless times. We initially connected with them because we share the same goal on Youth & Safety, Education & Awareness on Prevention, Caring for Survivors, and overall Community Healing. As our connection with SHARP grew, I and so many others learned so much. The club officers and I were able to use our new-found knowledge as well as the countless, free, and accessible resources SHARP offers to educate youth about healthy relationships, consent, and the importance of showing solidarity to a sexual assault survivor and how to help them. Most recently, we raised awareness on Denim Day, a day to combate victim blaming and educate others, with help from SHARP. I hope our collaboration doesn't end here. In the future, our club members and I look forward to further working with SHARP to spread the SASA influence. Without SHARP, SASA would be unable to create sufficient change in our school. We would lack resources that are incredibly valuable for workshops. We would be unable to support other organizations that SHARP has connected us to, like Young Asian Women Against Violence (YAWAV). Most importantly, we couldn't have

created a thriving, comforting space and reliable community for sexual assault survivors.

I may not know who you are, but I know for certain that we can agree on one thing: sexual assault is despicable. The feeling of having your body, your autonomy, your safety taken away from you is something that no one should have to go through. On behalf of my community and as someone who has experienced sexual assault, we ask and plead with you to keep and continue to fund SHARP. SHARP is how we create positive change. SHARP is how we comfort and bring survivors justice. SHARP is how we work to eliminate poor policies and bring about a safer environment for everyone of all genders, ages, and backgrounds. SHARP is timelessly essential to all of us.

Kind regards, Emma Hsu

This message was sent from a high school student using a Gmail account at San Francisco Unified School District. The content of the email should be related to education in support of 21st Century learning. If you have any questions regarding this message, please email gafe@t.sfusd.edu and include "Student email" in the subject line.

May 8, 2024

Dear Members of the Board and the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

We would like to share our support for the immeasurable value and dedication that the SHARP office, specifically from Dulce Garcia and KellyLou Densmore, gave us as we navigated the bureaucratic and confusing processes in the city government in San Francisco after the death of our son Jaxon Sales in March 2020.

We first met with the SHARP team in late 2021. We were, and still are, unclear as to the extent that our son was the victim of sexual assault, especially since he died of an overdose of GHB, also known as the date rape drug, in the Rincon Hill home of a man who was twice his age. The San Francisco Medical Examiner, unaccredited at the time, produced a report that did not demonstrate a thorough investigation of our son's death despite that office indicating that there was an overdose of another young man just days before our son's death at that same residence and with that same individual. The San Francisco Police Department also failed, at the time of our son's death, to thoroughly investigate the individual and those in attendance at the residence in the hours before our he died. The SHARP office, again specifically Dulce and KellyLou, were instrumental in navigating us through the process of engaging with these agencies and facilitating requests for communications and meetings to bring attention to our son's case for further investigation.

The SHARP team's genuine concern to help us understand what happened to our son and their expertise in advocating communication with the agencies were instrumental in bringing serious attention to Jaxon's death and the processes that hampered a proper and thorough investigation of the attendees present at the apartment on March 1, 2020, the resident of the apartment, and the event that occurred where illegal substances were present and resulted in a fatality. Our son's death should have been investigated properly and acted upon immediately to hold people accountable. Despite the length of time it's taken for the SFPD and the OCME to progress on our case, Dulce and KellyLou have kept in contact with us to ensure that we get closer to a resolution and justice for our son's death.

The SHARP office's impact goes well beyond our individual case. They are a strong advocate for the community, a safe place for victims to share their experiences, and an incredible resource in connecting with and navigating through the government agencies to ensure a positive and accountable outcome for victims who have endured sexual harassment and assault.

Sincerely,



Angie Aquino-Sales and Jim Sales
Parents of Jaxon Sales

Justiceforjaxonsales@gmail.com

510-773-9323

From: [Zyaire Nassirah](#)
To: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Subject: Re: Public Safety
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024 11:32:25 AM

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I forwarded it over

zy'aire nassirah
Pronouns: he/him
Co-Executive Director
zyaire@tgijp.org
cell phone 628-758-1458
[Donate Here](#)

TGI Justice Project
Mailing address: 370 Turk Street, #370 SF CA 94102
[415.554.8491](tel:415.554.8491) | [Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)



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On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 11:29 AM Zyaire Nassirah <zyaire@tgijp.org> wrote:

zy'aire nassirah
Pronouns: he/him
Co-Executive Director
zyaire@tgijp.org
cell phone 628-758-1458
[Donate Here](#)

TGI Justice Project
Mailing address: 370 Turk Street, #370 SF CA 94102
[415.554.8491](tel:415.554.8491) | [Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **KellyLou Densmore** <kellylou.densmore@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 9, 2024 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Re: Public Safety

To: Zyaire Nassirah <zyaire@tgijp.org>

Thank you!! I am so grateful.

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 10:59 AM Zyaire Nassirah <zyaire@tgijp.org> wrote:

I was at city hall this morning, will forward it respective parties

On Thu, May 9, 2024, 10:56 AM KellyLou Densmore <kellylou.densmore@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you SO much Zy'aire. This is great!

Will you please send it to the following email addresses as well:

jackie.prager@sfgov.org

sam.logan@sfgov.org

monique.crayton@sfgov.org

angela.calvillo@sfgov.org

sharp@sfgov.org

On Thu, May 9, 2024 at 10:38 AM Zyaire Nassirah <zyaire@tgijp.org> wrote:

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

I'm Zy'aire Nassirah, Co-Executive Director of TGIJP Black Cultural Center. Our mission is to build the collective power of Black trans folks, centering Black trans women and especially those of us who have been or are currently incarcerated. We work in collaboration with others to forge a culture of resistance and resilience to strengthen us for the fight against human rights abuses, imprisonment, police violence, racism, poverty, and societal pressures. We seek to create a world rooted in self-determination, freedom of expression, and gender justice. Our members are low-income transgender women.

I am writing on behalf of TGIJP and the Black transgender community in SF. We'd like to elevate the work and deep commitment that SHARP has established within the community.

Like us, SHARP centers the needs and requests of the community. SHARP has worked with survivors of gender-based violence and sexual violence who do not report to the police.

TGIJP contacted Dulce Garcia and KellyLou Densmore at SHARP when a few of TGIJP's members (Black trans women who were houseless at the time) were being violently harassed and attacked by a city employee who was in a contracted position working with the Department of Public Works. We filed a complaint with SHARP and they responded to advocate for us and our community.

SHARP worked with our organization and our members for over a year to address the issue, hold the city accountable, and to ensure that violence towards Black trans women by city employees never happens again. They met with us regularly, and hosted meetings with us and the Office of Transgender Initiatives in order to develop a training program for city employees who interface with transgender people.

SHARP has been a bridge between our members and city government and has been a very important resource for us to turn to when we don't want to go to the police when our community experiences violence.

I thank you for your time and wholeheartedly express our support for SHARP

Zyair Nassirah

From: [Lisabeth Castro-Smyth](#)
To: [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Sam \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [HRC-Office of S.H.A.R.P.](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 240389: [Hearing - Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assaults and Sexual Harassment Allegations]
Date: Friday, May 10, 2024 8:11:33 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Greetings,

I am writing to thank and acknowledge SHARP, from my experience as a licensed clinical social worker and an alum of San Francisco Women Against Rape's volunteer rape crisis counseling program. I completed CA state rape crisis counseling certification with SFWAR in 2010 and have continued to support survivors of trauma, assault, and abuse as a social worker since 2013. Despite having been recently founded in 2018, having only 2 staff members, and enduring the challenges of doing this work during a global pandemic, SHARP has centered the needs and requests of community.

A report released by the [National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice](#) showed that intimate partner violence incidents (including psychological, physical and sexual abuse) in the U.S. increased by 8% following lockdown precautions in 2020. During these years, survivors' choices about in-person healthcare services and support were impacted globally due to risks of transmission, nevertheless SHARP continued their work supporting survivors whether they chose to report to the police or not and spearheading the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Collective meetings. I appreciate the work that SHARP has done to follow the leadership of the most marginalized by developing critical partnerships in the areas of housing, student safety, prevention education, and community healing.

I have known Ms. Dulce Garcia for over 15 years and have had the great honor of witnessing her commitment to preventing and ending sexual assault, to educating on consent, and to supporting survivors in a myriad of ways. Ms. Garcia's leadership and community commitment as a queer bilingual woman of color who served SFWAR as a community education consultant for 7 years is indispensable. After providing many years of direct services to the LGBTQ+ community, formerly incarcerated women, marginally housed individuals, and immigrant Latina domestic workers, Ms. Garcia continues to inspire so many of us with her integrity, creativity, and tireless work on behalf of equity for San Francisco.

SHARP's work is important to me because our community needs more women of color led and survivor-centered programs for justice, prevention, and transformation. Thank you SHARP.

Sincerely,
Lisabeth Castro-Smyth, LCSW