

File No. 240273

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 23

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: March 26, 2024

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- CCSJ Statement 3/19/24
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Prepared by: Jocelyn Wong

Date: March 22, 2024

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

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

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.

24
25

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The Community Demands Transparency From SFPD Regarding the Violent Attacks on Asian Elders

The Asian Justice Movement (AJM) and a coalition of civil rights groups and community leaders demand the immediate release of the video showing the fatal attack on Ms. Yanfang Wu (age 63) and that the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) re-open the case as a homicide investigation and potential hate crime.

Ms. Wu died last year from injuries after she was pushed to the ground on July 3, 2023. The SFPD concluded the death was an "accident." Yet on Monday, March 4, 2024 the same suspect allegedly attacked another elderly Asian woman (age 71). There is an unreleased video apparently showing the suspect pushing Ms. Wu.

We demand the following from SFPD:

- 1. Re-open an investigation into the death of Ms. Wu as a homicide; and investigate whether both attacks were hate crimes.**
- 2. Release the July 3, 2023 video immediately.**
- 3. Identify the source of the leak that Ms. Wu's death was an "accident."**
- 4. Investigate whether the attacker has a pattern of other violent incidents against Asian people.**

ORGANIZATIONS:

ASIAN JUSTICE MOVEMENT

CHINESE CONSOLIDATED BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (SIX COMPANIES)

CHINATOWN VOLUNTEER COALITION

CHINESE HOSPITAL

CHINESE AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ASIANS ARE STRONG

From: [Janice Li, CCSJ](#)
To: [Erin Ho, SFPD](#)
Subject: CCSJ Statement and Call to Action Regarding Recent Incidents
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:43:22 AM

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The Newsletter



Statement on recent incidents involving Asian seniors and our calls to action

Over the past year, the Coalition for Community Safety and Justice has provided direct victims support for 83 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) victims and survivors. Through CYC's team of case managers and victims advocates, our role has always been to center victims and survivors by providing in-language, culturally competent care with professionals that meet the needs of those impacted. This support includes direct assistance from our victims fund, regular wellness checks, hospital visits, legal aid, mental health services and more.

Two of the 83 victims we've supported in the last year are Yanfang Wu, a 63-year-old Chinese woman who was shoved to the ground while waiting at a bus stop and later succumbed to her injuries in July 2023, and a 71-year-old Chinese woman who was injured in an unprovoked attack earlier this month on March 4th. CCSJ can confirm that the latter survivor is recovering from her injuries and the shock of the incident with support from her family.

Through recent media reports, sources have said that these two cases may have the same person of interest, which has led to the SF Police Department (SFPD) to reopen the July 2023 case.

CCSJ joins the community in calling for a full investigation of the July 2023 fatal incident. As we were supporting Mrs. Wu's family, there was little information shared as it took seven more weeks for the SFPD to formally close the case, ruling it as an accident. We believe a full investigation is a requirement for centering victims and their families in addressing the harm they face, and we ask that the SFPD and the District Attorney's office work hand in hand with the victims and their families of both cases to provide all the information they can.

Unfortunately, CCSJ knows that the experiences these two victims and their families faced are not unique. No one should have to struggle through hardship alone, which is why we know that CYC's victim services program and other community-based direct service providers play a critical role in supporting survivors, victims and their families.

We call upon the SFPD, the DA's office and our City leaders to increase their engagement with the community by providing a venue for direct service providers and the victims they support to ask questions, understand what information they are entitled to during the investigation period, and explain what the process is supposed to look like. This is what victim-centered and community-informed care looks like.

We believe that everyone deserves to feel safe in our communities, and when harm occurs, we want to make sure we have the resources to care for ourselves and our families. As a commitment to our communities, CCSJ will continue to do our part in putting victims and survivors first.

As a collaboration between Community Youth Center, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Chinatown Community Development Center, and Chinese Progressive Association, CCSJ is reimagining personal and community safety for AAPI communities in San Francisco. Each of our partner organizations have been rooted in the community for over 50 years and we are collectively working with local and state governments to strengthen San Francisco's community safety infrastructure.

If you or someone you know is an Asian victim of a recent crime or serious incident, you can immediately seek services by calling or texting Community Youth Center's outreach staff at (415) 550-1151 or email victimsupport@cycsf.org. Our team is fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, Toisanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai and Tagalog.

Chinese for Affirmative Action
17 Walter U Lum Place
San Francisco, CA 94108
United States

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SENIORS FIGHT BACK

STAND WITH ASIANS

STAND WITH ASIAN AMERICANS

ASIAN LEADERS ALLIANCE

DEAR COMMUNITY

DELTA CHINATOWN INITIATIVE

ASIAN AMERICAN VOTERS

ASIAN AMERICANS FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT - SF

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS PUBLIC AFFAIRS SAN FRANCISCO

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ASIANS

COMMUNITIES AS ONE

COMPASSION IN OAKLAND

IDEATE SAN FRANCISCO

IMAGINASIAN PRODUCTIONS

SFCAUSE

SUNSET UNITED NEIGHBORS

UNITED PEACE COLLABORATIVE

INDIVIDUALS:

Eddy Zheng

Maeley Tom

Daniel Lurie

Mark Farrell

Danny Sauter

Sharon Lai

Moe Jamil

Trevor Chandler

Laurance Lee

Selena Chu

Chris Do

Alan Wong

Aaron Lim

Alex Liu

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Benzi Blatman

Christopher Lee

Crystal Chiu

Derek Lee

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Gina Tse-Louie

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Lisa Pang

Lisa Wan

Lope Yap, Jr.

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Matthew Susk

MayJone Lau

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Mimi Go

Mindy Cheung

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Peter Lee

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Ruby Hyder

Samantha Chen

Shirley Lau

Sophia Shan

Sophie Su

Stephanie Huang

Steven Lee

Suzanne Chang

Timothy Low

Trinh Green

Trishala Vinnakota

Vincent Yuen

William Brega

Winnie Fung

Winnie Kwan

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)



I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Peskin; Walton, Chan

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]

Long Title or text listed:

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.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: //AP//