

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would amend Article XIII of Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code by adding Section 10.100-305.5 to establish the Hate Crimes Reward Fund (the “Fund”) to receive donations or appropriations for the purpose of providing rewards as set forth in the ordinance. The Fund would be a category six fund. Donations to the Fund would be deemed approved for acceptance and expenditure and would not require Board approval.

The proposal would authorize the Chief of Police to pay a reward to any person providing information that leads, in the judgment of the Chief after consultation with the District Attorney, to the filing of charges against a person for a hate crime, as defined in California Penal Code Section 422.55. If more than one claimant was eligible for a reward, the Chief could divide the reward in a manner they deemed appropriate, but the total reward in connection with a single incident could not exceed \$100,000. A person claiming a reward from the Fund could not have participated in the planning, commission, or concealment of the crime, and the information provided by the person must have been unknown to the Police Department or District Attorney at the time it was provided. If a person claiming a reward from the Fund has engaged in any prior criminal conduct or has a history of criminal arrests, charges, or convictions, that shall not be a basis for denial of the reward. If a person that provides information does not disclose their identity and seeks to maintain their anonymity, their request for anonymity shall not be a basis for denial of the reward. Rewards may only be paid to a person if the information is given voluntarily, at the person’s own initiative, and shall not be paid as part of any plea bargain. The Chief of Police shall pay a reward from the Fund only where the Chief determines, in the Chief’s judgment, that the Police Department has exhausted all investigative leads, and assistance from the public and a reward are necessary to achieve the filing of criminal charges for the crime.

Background Information

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors established the San Francisco Homicide Reward Fund to provide discretionary financial incentives for information leading to arrests and convictions in homicide cases. In 2025, the Board of Supervisors amended the Administrative Code to revise eligibility criteria for the San Francisco Homicide Reward Fund, including to allow the Chief of Police, in the Chief’s discretion, to approve payment of a reward when information

leads to the filing of criminal charges, whether or not the charges result in conviction. The Hate Crime Reward Fund will closely follow the structure and administration of the Homicide Reward Fund and will provide a similar mechanism to encourage members of the public to come forward with information that may assist law enforcement in solving hate crimes.

Data compiled for the City and County of San Francisco by the San Francisco Police Department indicates that 310 hate crime incidents were reported between 2021 and 2025, including 114 incidents in 2021, 36 incidents in 2022, 63 incidents in 2023, 52 incidents in 2024, and 45 incidents in 2025. Hate crimes continue to occur each year in San Francisco at persistent levels, demonstrating the ongoing threat posed by bias-motivated criminal conduct. Members of the public may possess information that can assist law enforcement in identifying and apprehending perpetrators of hate crimes, particularly where crimes occur in public spaces or where the perpetrator is not known to the victim. Establishing a San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund will enable the City to offer rewards for information leading to the filing of criminal charges against individuals who commit hate crimes in San Francisco, thereby encouraging cooperation with law enforcement and supporting the investigation and prosecution of these offenses.