

San Francisco District Attorney's Office: Efforts to Serve and Support the AAPI Community

District Attorney Chesa Boudin

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services
Committee Hearing

April 8, 2021



Hate Crime Prosecutions



- SFDA Office has filed **6 hate crimes** in 2021 so far
 - 5/6 involved AAPI victims
 - One such AAPI victim was targeted based on sexual orientation
- Compares to 9 total hate crime cases charged in 2020
 - 3/9 had AAPI victims
 - One of the three AAPI victims was targeted for sexual orientation/gender identity

Cultural Competence and Diversity at SFDA



Language

- Members of SFDA staff fluent in at least 12 languages, including Cantonese, Mandarin, and Tagalog





Cultural Competence and Diversity at SFDA

Cultural competence and humility

- Victim Advocates

- Ongoing trainings on cultural humility, working with BIPOC and vulnerable/marginalized groups, and crime survivors.
- In 2020, staff participated in 1000 hours of ongoing professional development.

- Attorneys

- Regular trainings on racial justice and equity, vulnerable victim's, Marsy's Law (victim's rights), victim's compensation and restitution.

Cultural Competence and Diversity at SFDA



Community Partnerships

- Community Coalition on Social Justice Workgroup with Community Youth Center, Chinese Progressive Association, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and New Breath Foundation
- CYC Partnership to support monolingual Chinese crime victims/survivors
- Restorative Justice Collaborative to repair the relationship between the AAPI and African American communities in San Francisco



SFDA Approach to Victim Services

Match

- Match clients with advocates based on language/culture and victimization type

Assist

- Assist crime victims with the benefit process

Explain

- Explain criminal justice process

Attend

- Attend court hearings

Connect

- Connect to other resources and community-based organizations

SFDA Approach to Prosecuting Hate Crimes



Specialized “vertical” Hate Crime Unit

- Assigned Hate Crime ADA with additional training on hate crimes, race and the law, and LGBTQ issues
- Assigned Hate Crime ADA reviews cases and prosecutes charged hate crimes

Collaboration with SFPD

- Train SFPD on evidence required for hate crime prosecutions
- Prepared hate crime officer field guide to ensure officers collect necessary evidence to support hate crime charges
- Work closely with SFPD hate crime investigators/officers to support collection of necessary evidence

SFDA Approach to Prosecuting Hate Crimes



Staff Hate Crime Hotline

- Public hotline for community members to report hate crime incidents

Engage community

- Lead numerous trainings for the public to understand hate crimes and hate speech

Partner with SFDA Victim Advocates

- Ensure victims understand criminal justice processes, are supported through investigations, court hearings, etc.





Challenges and Gaps

No dedicated funding stream

Limited
resources

Funding only by
grant

Time-consuming
nature of grant
applications

Minimal support
for less common
languages

SFDA Budget Request for Victim Services

Crime victim hotline

- To provide 24/7 help navigating criminal, legal, and social services available to victims of violent crime.

2 Victims Service “Credible Messengers”:

- Crime survivors who can help other victims/survivors navigate services, esp. victim/survivors with prior negative experiences with the criminal justice system

Clinical social workers for Victims Services:

- Help address trauma and other needs

Property Crime Advocates:

- Address the needs of thousands of property crime victims

Emergency Victim Fund

- Help with costs not covered by CA Victim Compensation Board