

1 [Administrative Code - San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund]

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

5 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
6 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
7 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.  
8 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
9 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
10 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
11 subsections or parts of tables.

9

10 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

11

12 Section 1. Findings.

13 (a) The City and County of San Francisco affirms its commitment to ensuring justice for  
14 victims of hate crimes by incentivizing public cooperation in investigations of such crimes. This  
15 ordinance will establish the Hate Crime Reward Fund for the provision of rewards to eligible  
16 individuals who furnish information that leads to criminal charges for a hate crime committed  
17 in San Francisco.

18 (b) A hate crime is a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of an actual or  
19 perceived protected characteristic of the victim, specifically disability, gender, nationality, race  
20 or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or  
21 more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Hate itself is not a crime, and in affirming its  
22 commitment to seeking justice for victims of hate crimes, the City and County of San  
23 Francisco is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties.

24 (c) Pursuant to the City's police powers under Article XI, Section 7 of the California  
25 Constitution, San Francisco may enact ordinances to safeguard the health, safety, and

1 welfare of its residents. Establishing the Hate Crime Reward Fund serves the public interest  
2 by seeking to improve clearance rates for bias-motivated crimes, promoting accountability,  
3 and encouraging community engagement in law enforcement efforts.

4 (d) In 2016, the Board of Supervisors established the San Francisco Homicide Reward  
5 Fund to provide discretionary financial incentives for information leading to arrests and  
6 convictions in homicide cases. In 2025, the Board of Supervisors amended the Administrative  
7 Code to revise eligibility criteria for the San Francisco Homicide Reward Fund, including to  
8 allow the Chief of Police, in the Chief's discretion, to approve payment of a reward when  
9 information leads to the filing of criminal charges, whether or not the charges result in  
10 conviction. The Hate Crime Reward Fund will closely follow the structure and administration of  
11 the Homicide Reward Fund and will provide a similar mechanism to encourage members of  
12 the public to come forward with information that may assist law enforcement in solving hate  
13 crimes.

14 (e) Hate crimes cause significant harm not only to the immediate victim but also to the  
15 broader communities targeted by bias-motivated conduct. Such crimes threaten public safety,  
16 undermine community trust, and damage the sense of security necessary for residents to live  
17 free from discrimination and intimidation.

18 (f) Data compiled for the City and County of San Francisco by the San Francisco Police  
19 Department indicates that 310 hate crime incidents were reported between 2021 and 2025,  
20 including 114 incidents in 2021, 36 incidents in 2022, 63 incidents in 2023, 52 incidents in  
21 2024, and 45 incidents in 2025. Hate crimes continue to occur each year in San Francisco at  
22 persistent levels, demonstrating the ongoing threat posed by bias-motivated criminal conduct.

23 (g) Between 2021 and 2025, most reported hate crimes in San Francisco were  
24 motivated by bias related to race, ethnicity, or ancestry (54%), followed by religion (23%),  
25 sexual orientation (17%), and gender nonconforming presentation or identity (5%). The most

1 frequently reported specific bias motivations during this period included anti-Asian (90  
2 incidents), anti-Jewish (59 incidents), anti-gay male (39 incidents), anti-Black (38 incidents),  
3 and anti-Hispanic or Latino (19 incidents). Many hate crimes may go unreported, and all  
4 groups may be vulnerable to them, as the bias motivations referenced above are not  
5 exhaustive and individuals of any protected class may be subject to them.

6 (h) Hate crimes in San Francisco frequently involve violent or threatening conduct.  
7 Between 2021 and 2025, approximately 69% of reported hate crimes involved violent  
8 offenses, including assault, aggravated assault, robbery, or criminal threats. Property crimes  
9 motivated by bias, including vandalism and destruction of property, also represent a  
10 substantial portion of reported incidents and account for approximately 31% of hate crimes  
11 reported during this period.

12 (i) Members of the public may possess information that can assist law enforcement in  
13 identifying and apprehending perpetrators of hate crimes, particularly where crimes occur in  
14 public spaces or where the perpetrator is not known to the victim. Rewards for information  
15 have been used in San Francisco and other jurisdictions as an investigative tool to encourage  
16 witnesses and community members to provide information that may otherwise go unreported.

17 (j) Establishing a San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund will enable the City to offer  
18 rewards for information leading to the filing of criminal charges against individuals who commit  
19 hate crimes in San Francisco, thereby encouraging cooperation with law enforcement and  
20 supporting the investigation and prosecution of these offenses.

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22 Section 2. Article XIII of Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by  
23 adding Section 10.100-305.5, to read as follows:

24 **SEC. 10.100-305.5. SAN FRANCISCO HATE CRIME REWARD FUND.**

25 **(a) Establishment of Fund. The San Francisco Hate Crime Reward Fund (the "Fund") is**

1 established as a category six fund to receive any monies appropriated or donated for the purpose of  
2 providing rewards as set forth in this Section 10.100-305.5. Donations to the Fund are deemed  
3 approved for acceptance and expenditure.

4 (b) Use of Fund. Monies in the Fund shall be used exclusively by the Chief of Police in the  
5 following manner:

6 (1) The Chief of Police may pay a reward to any person or persons providing information  
7 that leads, in the judgment of the Chief after consultation with the District Attorney, to the filing of  
8 charges against a person for a hate crime, as defined in California Penal Code Section 422.55, as may  
9 be amended from time to time, committed within the City and County of San Francisco. If more than  
10 one claimant is eligible for a reward under this Section 10.100-305.5, the Chief of Police may divide  
11 the reward in a manner the Chief deems appropriate, but the total reward in connection with a single  
12 incident, whether made to one person or divided among several persons, may not exceed \$100,000.

13 (2) A person claiming a reward from the Fund may not have participated in the planning,  
14 commission, or concealment of the crime for which the reward is provided, and the information  
15 provided by the person must have been unknown to the Police Department or the District Attorney at  
16 the time it was provided.

17 (3) If a person claiming a reward from the Fund has engaged in any prior criminal conduct  
18 or has a history of criminal arrests, charges, or convictions, that shall not be a basis for denial of the  
19 reward.

20 (4) If a person that provides information does not disclose their identity and seeks to  
21 maintain their anonymity, their request for anonymity shall not be a basis for denial of the reward. If a  
22 person claiming a reward from the Fund requests anonymity, their identity shall be maintained as  
23 confidential to the fullest extent permitted by law, unless such person consents in writing to disclosure  
24 of their identity.

25 (5) Rewards may only be paid to a person if the information is given voluntarily, at the

1 person's own initiative. Rewards may not be paid as part of any plea bargain.

2 (6) The Chief of Police shall pay a reward from the Fund only where the Chief determines,  
3 in the Chief's judgment, that (A) the Police Department has exhausted all investigative leads; and (B)  
4 assistance from the public and a reward are necessary to achieve the filing of criminal charges for the  
5 crime.

6 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section 10.100-305.5, a reward shall not be  
7 paid to a person for the provision of information that, in the judgment of the Chief of Police, is false.

8 (8) Except as provided herein, rewards are entirely in the Chief of Police's discretion and  
9 there is in no circumstance a right to a reward. The amount of the reward rests in the discretion of the  
10 Chief and shall be based on, among other considerations, the nature of the crime, the length and  
11 difficulty of the investigation, and the usefulness of the information furnished by the person claiming  
12 the reward.

13 **(c) Administration of Fund.**

14 (1) Any reference to the Chief of Police in this Section 10.100-305.5 shall include the  
15 Chief's designee.

16 (2) The Chief of Police shall submit an annual written report to the Board of Supervisors  
17 and the Controller within the first two weeks of July showing donations to the Fund received, the  
18 nature and amount of such donations, and the disposition thereof, together with a description of the  
19 individual rewards paid from the Fund.

20 (3) To the extent permitted by law, the Chief of Police may keep confidential information  
21 identifying individual reward recipients. This provision shall not be construed to require the Chief to  
22 disclose other information that by law may be kept confidential.

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24 Section 3. Undertaking for the General Welfare. In enacting and implementing this  
25 ordinance, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not

1 assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it  
2 is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused  
3 injury.

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5 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on the  
6 31st day after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor  
7 returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within 10 days of receiving it,  
8 or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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11 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
12 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

13 By: /s/Jen Huber \_\_\_\_\_  
14 JEN HUBER  
15 Deputy City Attorney

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