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Status of City Departments Handling Criminal Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Allegations

Re: [Board of Supervisors File No. 240389](#)

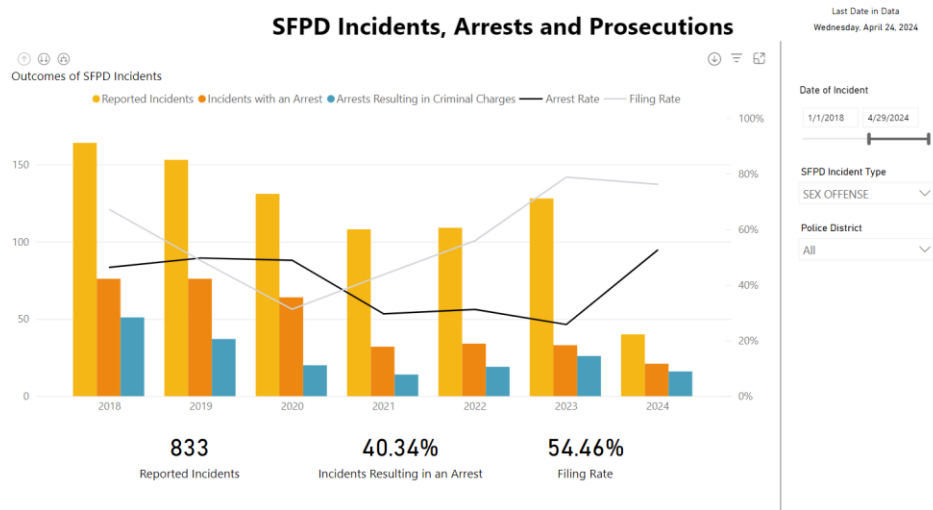
Presenter: Monifa Willis, Chief of Staff, San Francisco District Attorney's Office

1. **What is the department's protocol for handling allegations of sexual assault or harassment?
What are the steps you take with each complainant?**

- Allegations of sexual assault are investigated by law enforcement agencies within the City.
 - INVESTIGATION: Special Victims Unit of SFPD, SFSD, UCSF Police, SF State University Police, BART PD, CHP, Park Police, etc., depending upon where in the City the alleged assault took place.
 - When the investigating law enforcement agency determines that they have developed probable cause to make an arrest, the case is presented to the Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit (CASA) within our office for charging consideration.
 - CASE ANALYZED BY SFDA: Each case is meticulously analyzed by experienced prosecutors who consider all available evidence and applicable laws in order to determine whether we can prove **beyond a reasonable doubt** that the suspect in question has committed a crime.
 - FILE CHARGES: When we feel that the evidence is sufficient to reach that burden, we file the appropriate criminal charges in court and prosecute the offender.
 - WHEN ARE CASES DISCHARGED? Sometimes, we may feel that additional investigation is required before we can make a final determination. In that event, we send **the case back to the investigating agency** with a request that they complete the additional investigation and then present us with the results. In those cases where all avenues of investigation have been exhausted and we still are unable to prove a criminal violation beyond a reasonable doubt, the case is discharged for lack of sufficient evidence.
 - REFERRAL TO VICTIM SERVICES: In any event, whether a case is ultimately charged or discharged, victim advocates from our office work with survivors to provide support and services (more on that below).

2. **How many cases regarding sexual assault or harassment do you receive annually? How many get resolved? How frequently do you follow up with the survivor of the attack?**

- Per the [SFDA Data Dashboard](#), under the category of Sex Offense:
 - Between January 1, 2018 and April 29, 2024
 - 833 reported incidents
 - 40.34% incidents resulting in an arrest
 - Filing rate of 54.46%



YEAR	REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS RESULTING IN ARREST	FILING RATE (CHARGED?)
2018	164	46.34%	67.11%
2019	153	49.67%	48.68%
2020	131	48.85%	31.25%
2021	108	29.63%	43.75%
2022	109	31.19%	55.88%
2023	128	25.78%	78.79%
2024 YTD	40	52.50%	76.19%

3. **What resources does your department offer the survivors of assault/harassment, both internally and auxiliary?**

- The SFDA Victim Services Division (VSD) served 9,615 victims per the [2023 VSD Dashboard](#).
 - 204 were categorized as “sexual assault”
 - 58 were categorized as “child sex assault/abuse”
- Advocacy staff initiates contact to offer support and assess the victim/survivor’s need through a trauma informed lens.
- VSD offers crisis support and intervention which includes assistance with applying to the State of California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCB), linkage to mental health services, referral to legal aid, navigation of the criminal justice system, and offer support for emergent basic needs.
- VSD advocates keep the survivor informed on the stats of the case; if the case is charged, uncharged or under investigation and provide appropriate information for required follow-up.
 - In addition, VSD provides education on Marsy’s Rights, restitution, trauma, grief and healing.
- **Have you ever met with a City employee of the SHARP office?**
 - SHARP attends the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team- collaborative meeting between agencies and organizations) meeting to provide agency announcements and

departs the meeting. SHARP also attends the Domestic Violence Consortium community meetings.