



EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
THOMAS J. CAHILL HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-4603



GREGORY P. SUHR
CHIEF OF POLICE

#130026
Public Safety
Committee

January 24, 2013

Ms. Rana Calonsag, Assistant Committee Clerk
Public Safety Committee
Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Dear Ms. Calonsag:

RE: File No. 130026 – Hearing Request

The San Francisco Police Department recognizes the concerns the San Francisco Probation Department has about the safety of their officers in the field officers as the nature and characteristics of juvenile probation work has changed.

State laws have changed, resulting in young adults returning to juvenile probation caseloads for active supervision. The prevalence of guns and other weapons in the hands of youthful and adult offenders is devastating to our neighborhoods, as evidenced in many areas of our city including Visitation Valley, Bayview Hunters Point, Mission, and Western Addition.

While the majority of local youth is compliant with the law and orders of probation, a small number of high-risk offenders with histories of serious, chronic, and violent offenses is responsible for the most significant risk and harm. High-risk juveniles and young adults frequently associate with chronic, serious, and violent adult offenders, which make community supervision dangerous and dramatically compromises public safety.

Officials within the Juvenile Probation Department have begun a thorough review of its current practices relative to effective community supervision of high-risk offenders in an effort to determine the most practical tools and practices needed to increase field officer safety, enhance public safety, and maintain the safety and protection of juveniles in custody during high profile transports.

The San Francisco Police Department continues to rely upon and support the partnership it enjoys with the Juvenile Probation Department and will assist its efforts to examine its current practices in considering all best practices and lawful options available to protect their safety and the safety of the members of the employees of the Juvenile Probation Department.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact my office.

Sincerely,


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

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