

# POLICING & CRIMINAL JUSTICE COSTS RELATED TO OPEN AIR DRUG DEALING IN THE TENDERLOIN, SOMA, & MID-MARKET

*Policy Analysis Report to Supervisor Haney*

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Presentation to:

PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

April 25, 2019

**Budget and Legislative Analyst**



## Findings

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- City's efforts to address open air drug dealing are dispersed across various City departments and there is no coordinated strategic plan or tracking/reporting of associated costs
- Total estimated known costs in FY 2017-18: \$12,519,713
- This estimate does not include:
  - Any administrative overhead costs
  - SFPD training costs specific to suppressing open air drug sales
  - Reactive policing costs
  - Long-term incarceration costs
  - Behavioral Health Court and Drug Court costs



## Public Safety is a Leading Concern

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- Controller's 2017 Survey of Residents: 5th most commonly mentioned concern
  
- Concerns particularly high in District 6
  - Tenderloin
  - SOMA
  - Mid-Market
  
- Same areas are home to highest levels of open air drug dealing



## Narcotics Sales Arrests

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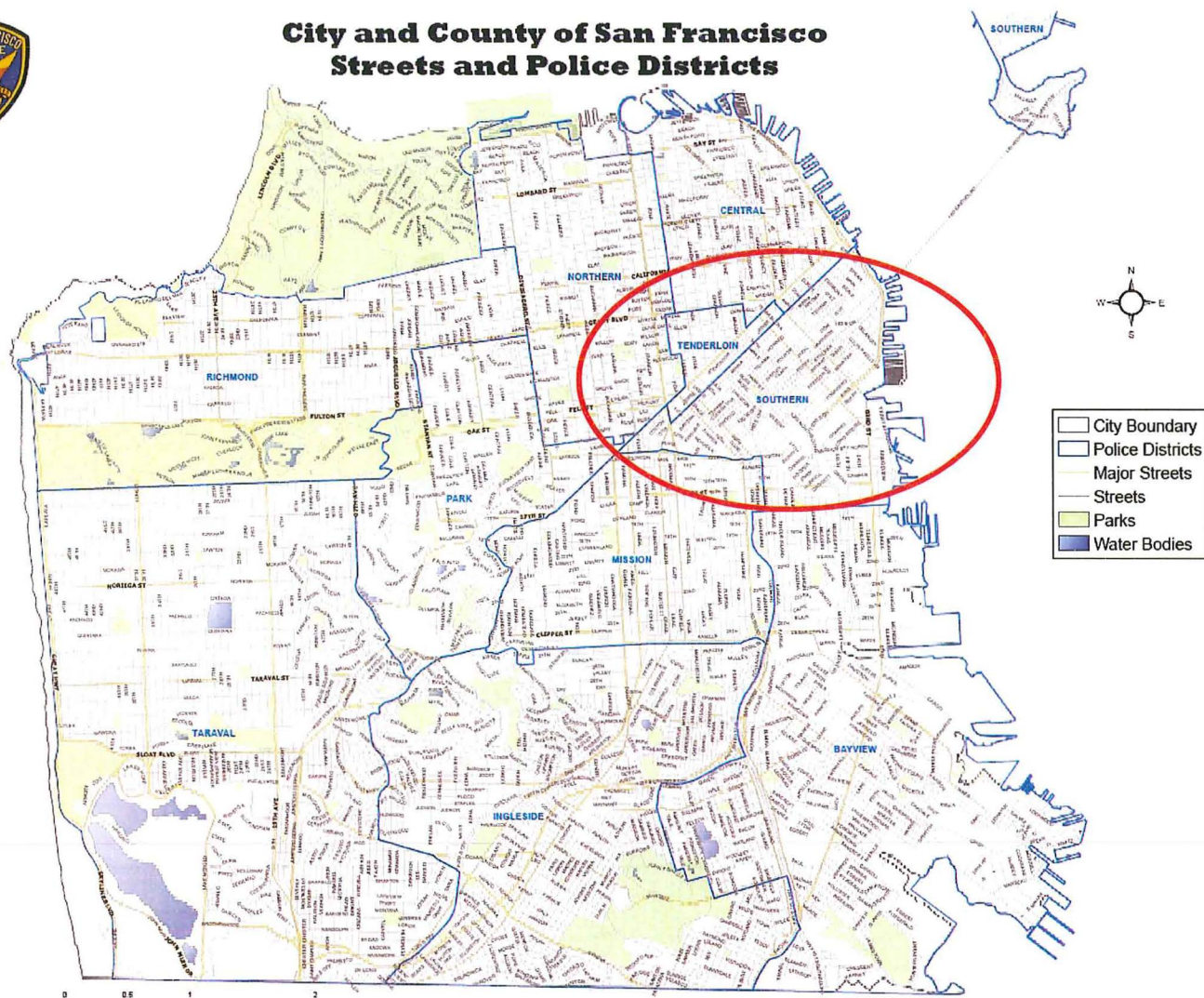
- 883 individuals booked or cited for narcotics sales by SFPD in FY 2017-18
  
- Narcotics sales arrests made across the City, but 68% in District 6
  - Tenderloin Police District: 56% of arrests
  - Southern Police District: 12% of arrests



# Tenderloin & Southern Police Districts



## City and County of San Francisco Streets and Police Districts



## Narcotics Sales Arrests

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- Most common drug types:
  - 31%: Cocaine base/rock (i.e. “crack”)
  - 24%: Heroin
  - 22%: Methamphetamine
  
- People booked or cited for drug sales citywide by race:
  - 51%: Hispanic/Latino
  - 27%: Black
  - 16%: White
  - 3%: Asian or Pacific Islander
  - 2%: Unknown
  - <1%: Other

## SFPD Suppression Efforts

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- ❑ Narcotics Unit: proactive investigation, infiltration, and arrests of individuals involved in narcotics trafficking and trafficking organizations
- ❑ Buy-Bust Operations: under-cover purchases of illegal drugs in order to make arrests
- ❑ Spotting Operations: officers dedicated to observing drug deals and making arrests
- ❑ Reactive Policing: daily activities that are determined by the events of the day, including calls for service
- ❑ **Total known FY 2017-18 estimated SFPD costs: \$7,731,926**



## Prosecutions & Outcomes

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- 747 drug sales arrests presented to District Attorney in FY 2017-18:
  - 80.5%: charges filed (601 arrests)
  - 14.3%: discharged
  - 5.2%: other action
  
- Of the 601 arrests with charges filed:
  - 45.9%: pending
  - 28.8%: convictions (173 convictions)
  - 11.3%: dismissal
  - 9.2%: other action
  - 4.7%: successful diversion



## Prosecutions & Outcomes (continued)

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- Of the 173 convictions from arrests presented in FY 2017-18:
  - 80.3%: probation with County Jail time
  - 15.6%: County Jail sentence
  - 2.9%: straight sentence (realignment)
  - 0.6%: split sentence (realignment supervision)
  - 0.6%: Court probation (unsupervised probation)
  
- Total estimated FY 2017-18 SF District Attorney costs:
  - Citywide: \$2,007,133
  - **68% of Citywide: \$1,364,850**

## Public Defense

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- Public Defender provided defense for 841 drug cases in FY 2017-18:
  - 1.0 FTE for Drug Court & Community Justice Court
  - 1.25 FTEs for Community Justice Court
  - 2.0 FTEs for LEAD SF diversion program
  
- Total estimated FY 2017-18 SF Public Defender costs:
  - Citywide: \$642,496
  - **68% of Citywide: \$436,897**

## Booking, Jailing, & Court Security Costs

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- The Sheriff's Office performs three main functions when responding to arrests of individuals on drug sales charges:
  1. Booking arrestees into jail
  2. Managing jail beds while arrestees await trial or release on their own recognizance
  3. Managing Court security during legal proceedings
  
- **Total estimated FY 2017-18 SF Sheriff's Office costs: \$1,692,811**

## Diversion Programs

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- Federal, State, and local policies have shifted away from criminal prosecution and mandatory sentencing of low-level drug offenders
  
- Diversion programs in San Francisco include:
  - LEAD SF
  - Young Adult Court
  - Community Justice Center
  - Behavioral Health Court
  - Drug Court
  
- Total estimated citywide FY 2017-18 diversion costs (LEAD SF & Young Adult Court only): \$420,157
  - **68% of citywide costs: \$286,108**



# Community Ambassadors

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- The Community Ambassadors Program is a neighborhood engagement and jobs training program run by the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs
  
- Ambassadors:
  - Are uniformed
  - Can provide general assistance
  - Can offer linkages to services and provide wellness checks
  - Can report hazards and maintenance needs to local authorities & contact medical and emergency services
  - Can provide a walking escort to individuals who feel unsafe
  
- **Total estimated FY 2017-18 Community Ambassadors Program Costs for Mid-Market/Tenderloin: \$735,121**



## Built Environment Suppression

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- OEWD programs include:
  - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
  - SF Shines
  - Block Safety Grants
  
- **Total estimated FY 2017-18 OEWD suppression related programs in the Tenderloin and Central Market areas: \$272,000**

# Policy Options

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The Board of Supervisors should consider the following actions:

1. Create a task force to address ways to suppress open air drug sales in the Tenderloin, SOMA, and Mid Market areas consisting of community members, experts, and department agencies tasked to evaluate current efforts to curb drug sales and suggest new programs and efforts.
  - If such a workgroup is initiated, the Board should request that it report periodically on the costs of various efforts across City agencies and on performance measures to track programs' effectiveness.
2. Request the Director of Public Health to report on how DPH plans to continue SF LEAD after expiration of the State grant including an estimate of necessary funding and how the City can maintain or increase the rate of social contact and pre-booking referrals.
3. Request the Director of the DCYF to report on plans to maintain or expand referrals to Young Adult Court after expiration of State grant funding.



## Questions and comments

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