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 communitybased 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

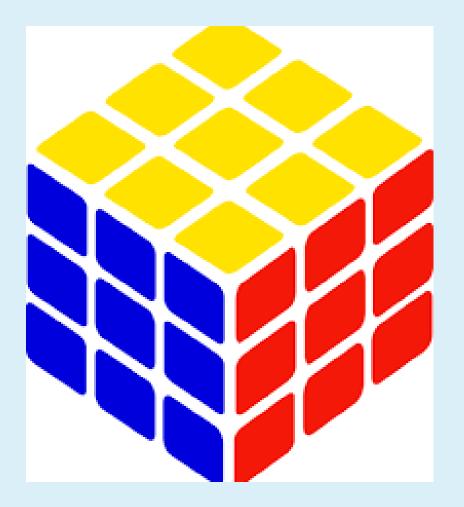
• Public hotline for community members to report hate crime incidents

Engage community

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

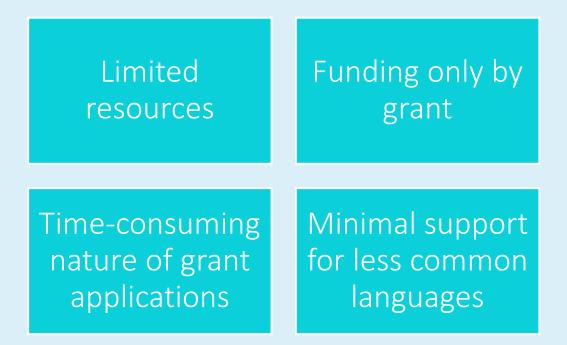
Partner with SFDA Victim Advocates

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



Challenges and Gaps

No dedicated funding stream



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