

London Breed
President, Board of Supervisors
District 5



City and County of San Francisco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2015

SUPERVISORS STATEMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTING OF MARIO WOODS

First and foremost, we offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mario Woods. We grieve the loss of yet another young African American man. And while we cannot bring him back, we will do our best to prevent others from suffering his fate.

The tragedy of Mr. Woods' case is not that police officers acted outside of proper SFPD procedures—an independent investigation will evaluate that. The tragedy is that police procedures themselves can seem to encourage violence. Now is the time for the San Francisco Police Department to become a model for de-escalation. We need mandatory crisis-intervention training for all officers, a renewed emphasis on community policing, more non-lethal options like shields, and a stronger sense that guns are a tool of absolute last resort.

San Francisco police officers serve the City in a difficult, dangerous job. The City has an obligation to develop practices that will keep them *and* the community safe.

This will require collaboration and, frankly, healing. Unfortunately the Police Officers Association's December 9 letter offered neither, preferring instead to criticize our District 10 colleague, Supervisor Malia Cohen. We support Supervisor Cohen. We share her concerns. We feel the anger and sadness of a community that's endured too much violence on our streets. And we are committed to not only a full investigation of this shooting, but to a reevaluation of police practices that will emphasize de-escalation and hopefully prevent another tragedy like this from occurring.

President of the Board of Supervisors, London Breed
Supervisor John Avalos