



SHAMANN WALTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10 - Natalie Gee, Chief of Staff, 415-619-0878

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUS FIRST VOTE ON THE CAREN ACT*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - On Tuesday, October 20, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Caution Against Racially and Exploitative Non-Emergencies (CAREN) Act on the first vote to amend the San Francisco Police Code to make it unlawful for an individual to fabricate false racially biased emergency reports.

The CAREN Act will expand the definition of a protected class in San Francisco to prevent false emergency calls with the specific intent to discriminate against a person or otherwise infringe the person's rights or cause the person specified harms on the basis of the person's race, color, ancestry, national origin, place of birth, sex, age, religion, creed, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, weight, or height.

The CAREN Act also will create recourse allowing a civil cause of action for the victim of such discrimination against the person who caused such contact to occur, to recover special and general damages of at least \$1,000 plus costs and attorney's fees, and punitive damages in the proper case; creating a means for people who suffer this kind of discrimination to seek redress from those who have targeted them through a civil cause of action for damages, will discourage this type of behavior and provide a tangible way for these victims to be compensated for this wrong. The CAREN Act does not discourage people from calling emergency lines for actual emergencies.

"Communities of color have the right to go about daily activities without being threatened by someone calling 911 on them due to someone's racism." said Supervisor Shamann Walton, author of the CAREN Act, "The CAREN Act will prevent these fraudulent emergency calls from happening. Rather than calling the police or law enforcement on your neighbor or someone who you think doesn't look like they should be your neighbor, try talking to them and getting to know them. Let's build relationships in our communities."



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When law enforcement respond to non-emergency calls as a result of the caller's prejudice, discriminatory views and racial bias, it diverts resources away from actual emergencies to the unnecessary policing of people of color. This is another form of racial violence instigated against people of color that causes further mistrust between communities of color and law enforcement.

The CAREN Act will be voted on a second time at next Tuesday's full Board of Supervisors meeting. This CAREN Act shall become effective 30 days after the Mayor signs into law.

A copy of the legislation and corresponding files can be found here: <https://bit.ly/CARENact>

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