



SHAMANN WALTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Contact: Natalie Gee, natalie.gee@sfgov.org

*****PRESS RELEASE: HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM “BILL” SCOTT FOR HIS SERVICE TO SAN FRANCISCO*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Today, Supervisor Shamann Walton recognized and honored Police Chief William “Bill” Scott at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for his extraordinary service, courageous leadership, and unwavering commitment to building a safer, more just San Francisco.

Sworn in as Chief of Police on January 23, 2017, by Mayor Ed Lee, Chief Scott brought with him 27 years of experience from the Los Angeles Police Department, where he rose to the rank of Deputy Chief. From his first day in San Francisco, Chief Scott was guided by a clear and powerful vision: to implement meaningful, lasting reform rooted in 21st Century Policing—centered on accountability, transparency, and trust.

Under Chief Scott’s leadership, the San Francisco Police Department became a national model for reform. What began as 272 recommendations from the Obama-era U.S. Department of Justice evolved into a blueprint for transformation. When the Trump administration ended federal oversight in 2017, Chief Scott refused to let the work go unfinished and partnered with the California Department of Justice to ensure that this work continued. On April 1, 2024, the SFPD submitted its final responses to the DOJ reform recommendations. This marked an important step in building a department more accountable to the communities it serves.

Chief Scott’s tenure was defined not just by bold vision, but by steady leadership through some of the most difficult times in recent history. He guided the department through the global COVID-19 pandemic and the national reckoning on policing following the murder of George Floyd. Through it all, he remained focused on both public safety and equity—particularly in the communities most impacted by violence and systemic inequality.

Thanks to his leadership, San Francisco’s violent crime rates remain significantly below those of other major U.S. cities, while clearance rates for violent crimes such as homicide far exceed the national average. He also embraced innovation and new strategies to tackle auto burglaries,



SHAMANN WALTON

organized retail theft, and property crime—ensuring that San Francisco’s public safety approach remains not only safe, but smart.

“I want to thank Chief Scott for his service to our city and for staying committed to the hard work of reform,” said Supervisor Shamann Walton. “Even when the national conversation shifted, Chief Scott remained focused on building a department that is more accountable to the people it serves. That work isn’t finished, but it matters that we’ve made progress—and that he’s helped lay the foundation.”

“Thank you for this honor. I truly appreciate the recognition, but this work has never been about one person,” said Chief Bill Scott. “I couldn’t do it without the incredible members of the San Francisco Police Department--past and present--especially those who are here with me today. I’m proud of what the SFPD has accomplished working in partnership with the communities we serve. I and the SFPD remain committed to continuing this work to serve the people of San Francisco with integrity, compassion, and accountability.”

Beyond the badge, Chief Scott is a husband, father of three, and a proud son of Birmingham, Alabama. A graduate of the University of Alabama with a degree in accounting, and an alum of the Senior Management Institute for Policing, Chief Scott’s commitment to public service has always been deeply personal—and it shows in everything he’s done for our city.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Scott’s dedication to community trust and public safety has never wavered. On behalf of a grateful Board of Supervisors, Chief William Scott, thank you. San Francisco is better because of your service.

###