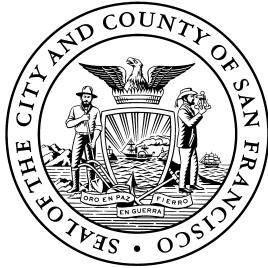


City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
District 6

MATT DORSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Dorsey stands in solidarity with LGBTQ+ first responders barred from marching in uniform in 2022 Pride Parade

*Gay supervisor is saddened to sit out parade, but strongly believes exclusionary policy
‘sends exactly the wrong message’ as City works to diversify public safety recruitment*

SAN FRANCISCO (May 23, 2022) — Supervisor Matt Dorsey today responded to news reports that LGBTQ+ and allied first responders from San Francisco’s police, fire and sheriff’s departments will sit out the 2022 San Francisco LGBTQ+ Pride Parade over a policy decision by the S.F. Pride board to prohibit them from wearing uniforms in this year’s parade. Dorsey has committed to join LGBTQ+ and allied first responders in sitting out this year’s parade in solidarity, so long as the exclusionary policy remains in effect.

Dorsey, who became the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ second gay member when he was sworn in as Mayor London Breed’s pick to fill the District 6 vacancy two weeks ago, is asking the Pride board to reverse its decision and allow uniformed first responders to march in the parade. He is also appealing to San Francisco’s LGBTQ+ community at large to forge common ground with city and community leaders — both to honor the uniformed men, women and nonbinary members of the City’s public safety agencies from our queer

community, and to take tangible, community-based steps aimed at attracting more LGBTQ+ job candidates to meet widespread public sector staffing shortages.

“All San Franciscans share a compelling interest in solving our public safety staffing crisis in ways that attract the most diverse and qualified pool of candidates we can,” Dorsey said. “We can do that by showcasing our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in our police, fire and sheriff’s departments. But a policy of exclusion, which prohibits LGBTQ+ first responders and allies from marching in uniform, sends exactly the wrong message at a time when we can ill afford to do so. I welcome the opportunity to meet with Pride board members to request that they reconsider their position. I’m also hopeful my fellow LGBTQ+ community members will express their support for a more inclusive approach, which celebrates our community’s uniformed first responders and encourages more queer candidates to pursue public safety careers right here in San Francisco.”

Immediately prior to his appointment to the Board of Supervisors on May 9, Dorsey served for just over two years on the command staff of the San Francisco Police Department, where he was the SFPD’s highest-ranking LGBTQ+ civilian member. Like most major law enforcement agencies in the U.S., SFPD has struggled with a police staffing crisis. Recent demographic trends in the number of sworn officers reaching retirement age combined with fewer young people seeking law enforcement careers have diminished SFPD’s ranks of full-duty sworn officers to approximately 25 percent below independently recommended staffing levels.

Despite the numerical crisis, however, the San Francisco Police Department’s recruitment has shown promise for its unprecedented diversity: in 2021, fully 76 percent of its sworn recruits were from BIPOC communities — the highest level in SFPD history. All three of the public safety agencies with sworn personnel in San Francisco have benefited from many decades of LGBTQ+ leadership, Dorsey said. A [2019 survey](#) of the top 25 law enforcement agencies nationwide by the National Center for Transgender Equality, for example, ranked SFPD first in the nation for its progressive policies on interactions with the transgender community.

Public safety hiring is only one aspect of public sector staffing challenges San Francisco is facing. The San Francisco Labor Council recently launched a [Staff Up San Francisco](#) public awareness campaign calling attention to more than 3,800 job positions that remain unfilled. The San Francisco Pride Parade for 2022 will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2022. More information is available at <https://sfpride.org>.

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