

City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
President

AARON PESKIN
佩斯金市參事

July 27, 2023

Contact: Sunny Angulo
415.554.7450

Board President Aaron Peskin Asks Police Chief Bill Scott to Appear at the Board of Supervisors to Explain Why SF Police Are Not Prioritizing Drug Cartels, Open Air Stolen Goods Markets and Violent Robberies
Introduces Budget Amendment to Shift Funding from Command Staff to Rank & File Personnel

San Francisco – Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin requested San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott to appear at the Board to answer important questions about police priorities, including the recent decision to expand the Command Staff while leaving key police districts without Captains. Peskin asked for this hearing in the wake of the San Francisco police arrests of over 100 people at the annual Dolores Street “Hill Bomb” while police have failed to adequately address ongoing open air drug markets, massive increases in auto break-ins and violent criminal activities.

“I want to publicly ask the Chief why he has the resources to conduct mass arrests but can’t use the same coordinated police resources to close down drug supermarkets, address the brazen selling of stolen property on our streets or even have his officers follow up on violent thefts like cell-phone robberies when the alleged thieves are leaving a clearly traceable digital trail,” said President Peskin.

Peskin has repeatedly called for San Francisco to close down the open-air drug supermarkets and address the chaotic conditions on our streets that are leading to business closures.

Peskin pointed out the tragic closing of La Cocina food hall in the Tenderloin neighborhood, which fed the community and helped immigrant women and families start small businesses. The market hall closed in part because customers and staff were afraid to brave the drug and stolen-goods markets in the neighborhood.

“If we can arrest kids with a massive show of police resources, we should be able to arrest scores of drug dealers on the streets of the Tenderloin, the Mission District, and other highly impacted communities. San Franciscans are demanding – and we deserve – answers,” President Peskin said.

Peskin said he was also deeply disturbed by news reports that women who had been violently assaulted in cell phone robberies were not having their cases being taken seriously by the San Francisco police.

“The news reports that the SFPD was largely ignoring these victims of crime, and not following up on leads even when the phones were still able to be tracked, is disturbing and once again raises the issue of our police priorities,” said President Peskin.

City and County of
San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
President

AARON PESKIN
佩斯金市參事

“In the last six years the Police Department’s **highly paid command staff has grown by 40% from 9 to 15 positions** while Northern and Central Police Districts, which cover some of the neighborhoods most impacted by crime, have been left without Captains for a month,” said President Peskin. “It is inexplicable that the Police Department leadership has chosen to make promotions to fill all of the Command Staff positions while leaving our most important district stations without leadership. The Chief needs to answer as to why critical staffing is being diverted away from our Police District Stations to top-heavy police brass positions, leaving rank and file officers struggling to respond to crime and looking for clear leadership.”

As a result of the lack of progress addressing these concerns, President Peskin introduced a cost-neutral amendment to the annual two-year Police budget that would eliminate one of two Assistant Chief position and 3 of 8 Commander positions, **shifting the funding to pay 8 day-to-day law enforcement officers** who are trained to do the on-the-ground work in San Francisco’s neighborhoods.

“We gave the Police Department everything that they asked for in this budget and more, and now we really need to see some progress on these top issues,” said President Peskin. “I look forward to continuing this dialogue at the Board of Supervisors after the recess.”

###