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*** PRESS RELEASE ***

Police Chief Scott, Supervisors Yee and Ronen Roll Out District-Based Police Staffing to Address Car Break-in Epidemic

SAN FRANCISCO – Supervisors Yee and Ronen joined Police Chief Scott at Taraval Police Station today to announce the rollout of a citywide plan to address an epidemic of car break-ins through the use of dedicated police staffing at every police station.

Car break-ins continue to plague San Francisco. 2017 saw a 24% increase in car break-ins compared to 2016, with over 30,000 break-ins reported citywide. Every single police district has seen an increase in car break-ins.

In October, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Supervisors Yee and Ronen urging the Police Department to create a comprehensive plan and citywide strategy on car break-ins within 60 days.

Chief Scott’s announcement today sets the plan into action and will take place alongside his already existing strategy of increasing foot patrols in high property crime areas.

"We've heard the concerns about property crime from the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor's Office and most importantly, the people of San Francisco," said Police Chief William Scott. "We are taking strong, proactive steps to reduce vehicle burglaries and bicycle thefts by assigning District Station officers specifically to the prevention, reporting and investigation of these crimes. By working closely with our community members and the deployment of data-driven strategies including undercover operations, foot patrols and education programs, we will make an impact on these types of crimes."

“I think we can all agree that there is not one solution to this problem. Our residents and visitors deserve better. We cannot give into the notion that dealing with constant break-ins is the way of life in San Francisco. I am encouraged by Chief Scott’s response in creating a multi-faceted approach. We need to adapt and evolve our strategies as property crimes become more prevalent and organized. The Board of Supervisors must continue supporting the resources"
needed to prevent, investigate, and bring these cases to justice,” stated Supervisor Norman Yee.

“Car break-ins are often devastating to families who are struggling to survive in San Francisco. This is a crime that hurts residents every single day. The statistics are staggering. The Mission Police Station saw an 86 percent increase in reported car break-ins this year, which is completely unacceptable. We have to ensure that the police have the tools they need to stop this crime, and we have to try new strategies until something sticks. I want to thank Supervisor Yee for continuing to push for district-based staffing, and I am hopeful that we will see some improvements once this plan is implemented,” said Supervisor Ronen.

Taraval and Mission Stations will serve as the pilot locations for this initiative. Chief Scott will report to the Board of Supervisors in six months to share the outcomes of this new strategy. The remaining stations will phase in dedicated staff over the course of the year.

One of the proven strategies to decrease break-ins is increased police patrols and engagement with neighborhoods on prevention. The issue of police staffing has been one the Department has been working on under Chief Scott’s leadership. In 2016, Supervisor Yee worked with the San Francisco Police Commission to establish the Task Force on Strategic Police Staffing & Deployment, which is currently in the process of determining citywide police staffing levels based on population growth, efficiencies, and workload assessments.

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