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Supervisor Gordon Mar introduces Crime Victim Data Disclosure Ordinance to require reporting on demographics of crime victims and hate crimes

New reports to shed light on communities most impacted by crime to inform more effective deployment of public safety resources

[San Francisco] On Tuesday, Supervisor Gordon Mar introduced the Crime Victim Data Disclosure Ordinance. The new legislation requires the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to issue quarterly reports on the aggregated demographic data of crime victims and the motivating factors for hate crimes.

“All communities deserve to be safe, and better data leads to better decisions and strategies,” said Mar. “These new reports will help us understand which communities are impacted by crimes, including hate crimes, to better prevent and address them.”

Hate-motivated crimes overall have surged in the past few years, increasing across the nation for three consecutive years from 2014-2017 according to the FBI. In San Francisco, the surge has been especially dramatic, increasing by 61% from 2017 to 2018. Under the proposed law, SFPD would be required to report data on the motivating demographic factor for hate crimes, and disclose aggregated victim demographic data (race, gender, and age) for victims of assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, robbery, battery, vandalism, domestic violence, and murder. The data will allow public safety advocates to identify trends and instances of communities targeted in crimes.

“Crime victim data disclosure will allow us to identify trends, allocate crime prevention resources strategically, and ensure that we keep all our communities safe,” said John Zwolinski, a member of the Taraval Police Station Community Police Advisory Board.
The announcement comes after months of focus on public safety concerns by Mar’s office, including a March hearing on home break-ins and an April town hall. At the hearing and town hall, Asian residents expressed concerns that their community was being increasingly targeted for burglaries and robberies. Mar requested SFPD release prior years’ crime data, including demographic information on victims, which revealed that all communities citywide saw an annual increase in burglary victims since 2015, and robbery victims since 2016. Theft victims across the city more than doubled from 2016 to 2018, with 28,444 theft victims in 2016 and 59756 in 2018. Asian burglary victims have increased annually since 2013, and Asian robbery victims have increased annually since 2017. Since 2009, 50% of all homicide victims were Black.

"The initial data provided by SFPD validates the growing public safety concerns within the Asian community and throughout the city showing increasing incidents of burglaries and robberies and an explosion in thefts in recent years." said Mar.

Asian burglary victims have increased in number every year since 2013, with 975 in 2013, 989 in 2014, 1118 in 2015, 1171 in 2016, 1427 in 2017, and 1531 in 2018. Asian robbery victims have increased every year since 2016, with 833 in 2016, 858 in 2017, and 987 in 2018.

All communities citywide saw an increase in burglary victims each year starting in 2015, with 7526 in 2015, 7692 in 2016, 8189 in 2017, and 9176 in 2018. There was a citywide increase in robbery victims since 2016, with 4597 in 2016, 4872 in 2017, and 4943 in 2018.

Nearly half of homicide victims (268 of 545) from 2009 to July 2019 were black.

The legislation does not require the SFPD to collect any new information from victims but does requires SFPD to publicly report data that is already being collected.

The legislation is supported by the Chinese American Democratic Club, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association, Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People, Visitacion Valley Asian Alliance, and Stop Crime SF.

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