



COUNCIL AGENDA: 8/18/2020  
FILE: 20-884  
ITEM: 4.4

# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas  
District 8

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** August 17, 2020

Approved

Date

*Sylvia Arenas*

*8/17/2020*

**SUBJECT: POLICE DEPARTMENT DUTY MANUAL AMENDMENTS**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Direct the City Manager to review and recommend to the Public Safety, Finance, & Strategic Support (PSFSS) Committee additional duty manual changes to improve the Police Department's interactions with survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations including:
  - a. Align measurable outcomes across law enforcement agencies and community service providers.
  - b. Review all reports of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking for potential high lethality and require officers to provide a police report upon request.
  - c. Ensure a trauma-informed approach to Police Department response by providing survivors with a connection to a community advocate in-person, by phone, or pamphlet before the officer leaves the scene regardless if the survivor asks for referral services.
2. Add this work to the PSFSS Committee Workplan, as well as the City Manager's Sexual Assault Response and Strategy Workplan.
3. Cross list this item to Council for final approval of potential duty manual changes not limited to Section 4312 Sexual Assault Cases and Section 4313 Domestic Violence.

## **BACKGROUND**

I would like to thank the Administration and our Police Department for the joint work that has been completed to date to improve the experiences of sexual assault and intimate partner violence survivors to ultimately achieve higher closure rates. I'm grateful for the addition of the

Sexual Victims Unit which is crucial in addressing the crime intersectionality between intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The data patterns in San Jose tell us that we must continue with these efforts as well as the collaboration with stakeholders for feedback on system improvements. I'm grateful to Chief of Police Eddie Garcia and Deputy Chief Heather Randol for joining me and four community service agencies to discuss our concerns for increased gender-based violence amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The group collectively agreed on the need to identify the data points that would best inform PD and community advocate response to survivors and this memo aims to achieve that goal.

In response to the intersectionality of sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking, the City and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors previously held two joint special hearings to identify gaps in services and system improvements. The City and County both expressed their ongoing commitment to create a coordinated regional response for survivors. Since these hearings, community service agencies continue to work with us to identify opportunities to build trust and consider system improvements. In an effort to increase reporting for one of the most underreported crimes, field experts and community service providers recommend aligning measurable outcomes across law enforcement agencies and community service providers to paint a fuller picture that better represents the number of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking cases regardless if a survivor chooses to pursue a police report.