

# SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

MANOHAR RAJU – PUBLIC DEFENDER  
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY



March 11, 2020

Chief of Police William Scott  
San Francisco Police Department  
1245 Third Street, Sixth Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94518

Re: SFPD response to COVID-19

Dear Chief Scott,

In the interest of protecting the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans, I am pursuing all possible avenues to reduce possible Corona Virus exposure for my office's current and future clients. We are working to ensure that detained persons are not inadvertently being exposed to a life-threatening illness during their detention and are requesting that you exercise your authority to reduce exposure at the points of citation, arrest and pretrial incarceration.

As we all follow recommendations to avoid congregating and preserving more personal distance than usual, we must be especially mindful to reduce criminal legal system contact to the greatest extent possible, while also upholding the duty to protect public safety. I am therefore asking that you exercise your discretion and instruct all officers under your command to reduce all unnecessary contact with the community by ceasing to cite people for violations of municipal infractions, ceasing citations and arrests for low level misdemeanors that do not pose a public safety risk, and to suspend all additional arrests, unless there is a clear and present danger of imminent physical harm. This should include all misdemeanor offenses and all non-violent felonies.

By way of example, please see the attached document by the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs with particular focus on the following language on the third page:

1. Downsizing

...

b. Are there alternatives to arrest for certain crimes, or, in dire situations, are there crimes for which your patrol division will not arrest?

I am further requesting that you provide me—and the public—with the specific plans and protocols you have in place to avoid COVID-19 coronavirus being transmitted in all spaces under your control, like police vehicles and police station holding areas, and by items like handcuffs that are reused on multiple persons.

**Adult Division - HOJ**  
555 Seventh Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
P: 415.553.1671  
F: 415.553.9810  
[www.sfpublicdefender.org](http://www.sfpublicdefender.org)

**Juvenile Division - YGC**  
375 Woodside Avenue, Rm. 118  
San Francisco, CA 94127  
P: 415.753.7601  
F: 415.566.3030

**Juvenile Division - JJC**  
258A Laguna Honda Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
P: 415.753.8174  
F: 415.753.8175

**Clean Slate**  
P: 415.553.9337  
[www.sfpublicdefender.org/services](http://www.sfpublicdefender.org/services)

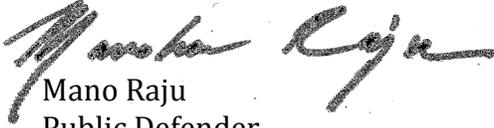
**Community Justice Center**  
P: 415.202.2832  
F: 415.563.8506

**Bayview Magic**  
P: 415.558.2428  
[www.bayviewmagic.org](http://www.bayviewmagic.org)

**MoMagic**  
P: 415.567.0400  
[www.momagic.org](http://www.momagic.org)

Adopting and publicly releasing these policies will address and balance the concerns of our office, our clients and their communities, and the general public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mano Raju". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mano" and last name "Raju" clearly distinguishable.

Mano Raju  
Public Defender

cc: Mayor London Breed  
District Attorney Chesa Boudin  
DPH Director Dr. Grant Colfax  
Sheriff Paul Miyamoto