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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER
Greater Than One

November 06, 2026

Paul Henderson
Executive Director
Department of Police Accountability
1 South Van Ness, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Request for Investigation – San Francisco Police Department Unknown Officers

Dear Executive Director Henderson,

On October 12, 2026, SFPD officers engaged in a pursuit in violation of department policy, and one officer used excessive force on the suspect, killing him. SFPD's public response omitted facts about what occurred. We are requesting that DPA investigate this incident and initiate appropriate discipline for the unlawful pursuit, excessive use of force, and dishonesty.

Plainclothes SFPD Officer Shoves Edwin Adams, Killing Him
On October 12, 2026, SFPD Officers were pursuing a man riding a scooter who had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for non-violent crimes. Witnesses described what they saw to the press: "that Adams struck the metal pole when he was tackled by someone who appeared to be an undercover police officer."[1]

Security footage from across the street corroborates their account.

Stills from the attached video[2] show Adams on a scooter in the street moving away from the camera, veering left to avoid the unmarked police car that just stopped in the middle of the road then being shoved by a plain-clothes officer.

[1] https://missionlocal.org/2026/10/edwin-adams-sfpd-identity/
[2]

Adams on a Scooter on Mission Street, Unmarked Car's Door is Opening



Plainclothes Officer Exits Stopped Unmarked Police Car



Plainclothes Officer Crouches



Plainclothes Officer Shoves Adams



The San Francisco Police Department has not publicly released body-worn camera footage, the involved officers' names, nor any details about Edwin Adams' death beyond a brief statement given to media outlets.[3] The Department is quoted as saying Adams "collided with a street fixture and suffered injury"[4] without mention of any police activity that precipitated the collision.

Three Misconduct Issues to Investigate

The unknown officers who initiated the vehicle pursuit for a non-violent misdemeanor offense violated department policy, and the officer who used deadly force to apprehend Adams did as well. Additionally, any sworn officers involved in issuing the statement should be investigated for dishonesty in concealing and thus misrepresenting how Adams died.

Vehicle Pursuits Violation

SFPD DGO 5.05.05[5] limits officers' ability to initiate vehicle pursuits to only two situations: when they have at least reasonable suspicion that a felony has occurred or that a violent misdemeanor has occurred.

The warrant for Adams was issued because the battery in his ankle monitor was not properly charged. An alleged probation violation is not a felony nor violent misdemeanor, nor was Adams' underlying charge so the pursuit was a violation of department policy.

Use of Force Violation

SFPD DGO 5.01 specifies that "an officer's use of force must be objectively reasonable under the totality of circumstances known to the officer at the time." Any reasonable officer would know that crouching down to tackle a person traveling rapidly on a scooter without a helmet posed significant danger to the person, to the officer, and potentially to members of the public in the area. An officer is required to know that it constitutes Type IV use of force that far exceeded the amount of force called for in the situation.

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[3] See https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/scooter-crash-fatal-ankle-monitor-22479036.php and https://missionlocal.org/2026/10/edwin-adams-sfpd-identity/

[4] *Id.*

[5] SFPD DGO 5.05 says that motorized scooter pursuits are governed by DGO 5.25 "Foot Pursuits." That policy addresses incidents "where an officer chases, on foot" a person evading arrest. Foot Pursuits involve "running" and runs the risk of "fatigue." The provision does not entertain the possibility that an officer would use a car at high speeds to engage in a "foot pursuit." DGO 5.05 governs police behavior while in a vehicle, initiating a pursuit.

Dishonesty Violation
SFPD DGO 2.01.03 condemns "any conduct that brings discredit upon the Department" as misconduct and deems "[h]onesty, credibility, even temperament, and sound judgment" as "essential to the performance of the member's duties."

One of the witnesses interviewed by the press at the scene later described SFPD's public response as "a lie."[6] This incident has damaged SFPD's reputation and credibility. Whoever issued the statement to the press, as well as whoever fed the information from the scene to the ultimate release, has brought discredit upon the department.

Request for Investigation and Action
We have attached the video obtained from 1190 Mission Street, but we have so far not been able to obtain an incident report nor BWC from the pursuit.

We are requesting that DPA investigate this incident and initiate appropriate discipline for the unlawful pursuit, excessive use of force, and dishonesty. Additionally, DPA should recommend to the Police Commission that SFPD reinstate town halls for officer-involved shootings and expand their use to include deaths in custody or during pursuits.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

_____
Zac Dillon & Brian Cox
Integrity Unit
Office of the Public Defender

[6] https://www.instagram.com/reel/DecxzP6n1R0/