

Public Safety Meeting- February 12, 2024

Josh called the meeting to order at 6:10

Thank you to the community attendees who spoke at the meeting.

- San Francisco Supervisor and Board President Aaron Peskin (District 3);
- San Francisco Supervisor Catherine Stefani (District 2);
- San Francisco Police Department Captain Han Ja Kim (Central Station);
- Julia Cervantes, Manager, Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office;
- Paul dePrey, Superintendent, San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park
- Dale Dualen, Public Information Officer, San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park
- U.S. Park Police Operation Commander Lt. Joseph Griess

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING

What can you do to feel safer:

1. Be Aware of your surroundings for your personal safety.
2. Avoid using your phone while in the car or walking. It causes you to be distracted and makes you look like a target.
3. If you are walking scan the area on a regular basis. If you are parking, scan the block you are parking on.
4. Arrive in your car, ready to grab your bag from your passenger seat and go to the club. Do not open the trunk or linger at your car.
5. Leave your car and walk with purpose.
6. If something does not look or feel right, it is probably not. Trust your gut. Keep on driving, drive around the block or call someone.
7. Stay together in numbers or Carpool. If you pull up, look for another member who also pulled up. Park by them and ask them to walk together to the club.
8. Consider getting a noise device as a possible deterrent such as a Birdie Personal Safety Alarm - 130dB Siren LED Strobe Light which makes a very loud noise and bright light to garner attention.
9. Consider carrying pepper spray but ensure you are comfortable using it. Also note that it does not impact all people the same way. You also need to be aware of the shelf life as it does expire. Generally, pepper spray has an effective life of up to three or four years from the manufacturing date.
10. Consider taking personal defense classes.

What to do if you are attacked or a victim of crime:

1. Try to remember any details of the assailant. A detailed description is important as they need a good ID for a solid case. Note any identifying factors like the color of the shoes, a tattoo or something that is unique to the assailant.
2. Call 911 immediately and report it.

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What our community is doing to help ease our concerns and reassure us:

1. Supervisor Stefani committed to assessing the surrounding areas and camera/videos for both clubs.
2. Jointly SF Officers and Park Officers are assessing more lighting in areas of concern.
3. Jointly SF Officers and Park Officers are assessing more cameras which is only helpful after the fact.

ABBREVIATED MEETING NOTES FOR KEY SPEAKERS

Josh noted that we had 74 people watching remotely on Webex.

Josh Sale, our President, made a quick introduction and welcomes us under this sad event. One of our members was coming to the club in the early morning hours and was attacked and robbed. Josh noted how impressed he was with the whole community and how they came together to support Andrew after he was attacked. Cathy Harrington rendered help, Sean Johnson also lent significant help supporting him at the hospital and afterwards, Marc Glomb walked his dog, Jing Li created the go fund me page for donations, Dominica organized the governmental response. There was an arrest in Stockton the following day. They were juveniles.

Josh noted the meeting is just for the South End and Dolphin Club members. This is a private meeting and everything is off record. We want to have an open exchange to enable people to speak unguarded. We are not going to solve all the issues, but we want to understand how we can stay safer.

San Francisco Supervisor and Board President Aaron Peskin (District 3) thanked Josh for being the South End Rowing Club President. Peskin is a 32-year member of the South End Rowing Club. He started out by saying how sorry he was for what happened to Andrew. And thanked god he is ok and was out of the hospital in one day. He also thanked the SF Police Department who was on scene right away. And applauded the actions taken as the two juveniles who were apprehended the next day in Stockton.

San Francisco Supervisor Catherine Stefani (District 2) thanked President Peskin. She noted that the way she saw The South End Rowing Club rally around Andrew was impressive and she is sorry for what happened. Though it was random, sadly in San Francisco we just don't have enough police officers. We have great officers in Central Station in North Beach. You are all sports enthusiasts, and you need to win with what you have. She knows we will all feel safer if we see more police around. She wants everyone to feel safe by way of answering some questions and putting us all at ease.

San Francisco Police Department Captain Han Ja Kim spoke next and said he is very sorry for what happened to Andrew. It is very difficult to talk about these crimes in general terms. He noted that what they have been seeing lately are a lot of these crimes are being done by auto burglaries. Crime has gone down due to the plain clothes police. Auto burglars are essentially robbers. They are opportunists and when they see people alone or on their phones, are distracted, they take advantage of that opportunity. When Captain Kim talks about public safety, he knows they are short staffed. But as a community we can increase safety. Getting more lighting. Getting more video surveillance which is critical in building a strong case. They are looking at increasing cameras. For us it is all about being aware of your

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surroundings. If something feels off, you are probably right. Go to the nearest business or call the police. Also report something. There was another case of a robbery this morning (February 12th) at 1am and they waited 7 hours to report. Report it immediately. Focus on your personal protection and notify the authorities immediately when something happens or feels out of place. Since January 1st, these are the first two major incidents of the year in Aquatic Park. Predominantly, it is auto theft. He said be aware. If you feel something is off, trust your instinct. Ultimately, for the area, for the most part, there are not that many robberies. Be aware is the message he wants to send out. Captain Kim cannot make a guarantee as it depends on what is going on. You cannot rely on the police all the time. It is dependent on the community. If there is a certain event going on, like the 24-hour relay, yes, they can add support. He sees a lot of people here. What reduces crime is what the community does together. The police are not the solution, but they are part of the community. They are not the only part. Stay together in numbers, Carpool, be aware for your personal safety. There is no one answer. There is no one thing we can all do to be 100% safe. These are crimes of opportunity. If any one of us is alone, we are at risk.

Julia Cervantes, Manager, Juvenile Division of the District Attorney's Office spoke to us about the process to expect regarding the case. The SF police department did a great job and continue to work to build the case. Once the case is ready to be presented to them, it will be sent through the juvenile probation department. She will evaluate it for charging. She will decide which charges can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Then they will make a charging case and will assign an advocate to Andrew and decide if they go ahead with the case.

Paul dePrey, Superintendent, San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park spoke next. Dominica did a great job rallying the community around the case. He wanted to highlight the level of communication amongst the community. Thank you to all of you for being part of the solution. This is really challenging, hearing there was another attack last night and sorry what happened to Andrew. They are looking at what they can provide to support the case. This area has seen an increase in less desirable behaviors such as side shows. He wants people to know they are ok to come to the waterfront at night or in the morning. There are some infrastructure updates they would like to add including better lighting.

U.S. Park Police Operation Commander Lt. Joseph Griess noted jurisdiction is joint with SF Police. The park police provide law enforcement for the parks in the city, including Aquatic Park. By and in large, this act was random, and these areas are largely safe. We are so sorry this happened to Andrew, but these acts of violence are rare. You can call 911 to get to the Park Police. He provided the **direct line to Park Police- 415-561-5505**. Immediately after this incident they discussed how to improve conditions in the park, including lighting. They meet weekly to discuss how to improve the park.

Meeting adjourned with smaller group conversations.