



### HIV/AIDS

In 1981 the first reports of HIV/AIDS were reported widely by the media as the "Gay Disease" and previously healthy, young men started dying of relatively rare health conditions.

While the U.S. Government said little about HIV/AIDS officially, the LGBTQ+ community organized, researched, and marched for treatment and support. San Francisco was a leader in much of this effort, alongside New York and Los Angeles.

Sadly, many Gay Officers in the SFPD during this time were lost to HIV/AIDS, with Lesbian Officers often providing the care and hospice attention to these Officers throughout their illness. While many Lesbian SFPD Officers attained high rank within the department, it is only recently that Gay Officers have entered the commissioned rank level with our very own Captain Christopher Del Gandio being the first out Gay Captain within the SFPD.

### WHO CAN JOIN & HOW?

The Forum is open to any member of the LGBTQ+ community who lives, works, or attends school in San Francisco and who can commit to:

- attending regular bi-monthly meetings,
- supporting the overall work of the Forum,
- maintaining an open mind about any topic or issue raised at Forum meetings.

*"Working together to create a safer and stronger community for all"*

### **CONTACT US**

[LGBTQ.Forum@sfgov.org](mailto:LGBTQ.Forum@sfgov.org)



## **SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum**



*"Working together to create a safer and stronger community for all"*

**ESTABLISHED IN 2010**



## DARKER DAYS

The relationship between the SFPD and the LGBTQ+ community has not always been a good one.

The riot at the **Gene Compton's Café** in the Tenderloin in August of 1966, when transgender men and women stood up for their rights against police brutality, persecution, and profiling was the first in the Nation, preceding Stonewall in 1969.

The **White Night** riot took place on May 21, 1979 when extremely lenient sentencing was announced for former Supervisor and former SFPD Officer Dan White, who murdered Mayor Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk using the infamous "twinkie" defense. Protesters marched to City Hall, broke windows and burned Police vehicles. In unconscionable retaliation, the SFPD raided a very popular bar in the Castro neighborhood, smashing windows, injuring many patrons and arresting dozens on trumped up charges.



## RAINBOW WAYS

SFPD has made significant progress since the days of Compton's Café, the White Night riots, and the darkest days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

LGBTQ+ recruits and Officers are welcomed, encouraged, and supported within the department, and SFPD leads the way for many other Law Enforcement entities around the country in terms of Implicit Bias, Crisis De-escalation, and LGBTQ+ awareness training for all Officers.

SFPD expanded the LGBT SAFE ZONE project initiated by the Chief's LGBTQ+ Forum to ensure all Police Stations were seen as a safe and welcoming place to seek refuge or report crimes, by developing a SAFE SPACE program for businesses which will offer a safe-haven and assistance to anyone who needs it until police arrive.

The department of today understands that it must work WITH and ALONGSIDE the LGBTQ+ community in order to make San Francisco a safer place for everyone, and it is committed to doing this in every way possible. The Chief's LGBTQ+ Forum is just one of many such efforts on-going within the SFPD.



## LGBTQ+ FORUM

The Chief's LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Forum is one conduit for community members and organizations to connect directly with the SFPD Command Staff directly.

Through regular meetings, events, and special projects the Forum seeks to engage a broader spectrum of LGBTQ+ individuals with the SFPD, to better understand and address their needs, concerns, and perceptions, and to help modify and develop department procedures and protocols accordingly.

The Forum acts as a two-way information conduit, allowing both questions and answers to flow in both directions. Forum members act as interlocutors between their own community groups and the Department, helping to share information and offer guidance and assistance as needed.

The Forum also connects with similar groups around the country, and around the world, to find out what others are doing, and how they are addressing their own particular concerns in ways that may be applicable in San Francisco.