

Annual Community Policing Plan

Special Victims Unit



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Police Department

11/01/24

SVU Overview

- The Special Victims Unit is responsible for investigating a variety of criminal incidents including; Domestic Violence, Sexual Assaults, Elder Abuse (financial and physical), Missing Persons, Stalking, Financial Crimes, and Child Abuse. Investigators also serve as a support to the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC), the Sexual Offender Unit, the Human Trafficking Unit and the Cold Case Unit.
- SVU currently has one Captain, three Lieutenants and approximately thirty (30) Sergeants assigned to the Unit.
 - SVU Investigators are responsible for:
 - Managing complex crime scenes
 - Immediately following up on active leads
 - Coordinating the response of support units
 - Notifying/updating superiors during rapidly unfolding investigations
 - Receiving, transmitting, and keeping sensitive criminal and administrative information confidential
 - Authoring arrest and search warrants
 - Maintains a caseload until the case gets adjudicated in the courts or inactivates due to lack of evidence.

Goals and Objectives

The following sections highlight how SVU's Annual Community Policing Plan ties into the Goals and Objectives of the SFPD Community Policing Strategic Plan. The five Goals are

- **Goal 1:** Communication
- **Goal 2:** Education
- **Goal 3:** Problem-Solving
- **Goal 4:** Relationship Building
- **Goal 5:** SFPD Organization

Goal 1: Communication

Honest, transparent, and empathetic dialogue between the SFPD and San Francisco Community.

- **Objective 1.1:** Create a diverse set of communication channels between the SFPD and community
 - SVU Captain and Lieutenants meet regularly with community stakeholders and victim services groups. These meetings continue to increase the communication between SVU and the community at large.
- **Objective 1.4:** Transparently communicate, publicize, and educate community about SFPD goals and policies
 - Through community stakeholders (ie. La Casa de las Madres or Child Advocacy Center) SVU will continue to be able to communicate the goals and policies of SVU and the Department. SVU will utilize these communication channels to further educate the community about the SVU investigative process and answer any questions regarding this process.

Goal 2: Education

SFPD both trains and is trained by the communities it serves

- **Objective 2.1:** Train the community to empower them to improve community safety
 - In meeting with partner city agencies and community stakeholders on a regular basis, SVU will be able to provide detailed information on how specific investigative processes can be utilized in order to improve community safety.
- **Objective 2.2:** Invite third party and community instructors to contribute to SFPD training
 - SVU routinely invites leadership from partner city agencies to participate in cross-training between agencies. These partnerships will continue to foster community involvement and education.

Goal 3: Problem-Solving

Increase safety through collaborative working partnerships between SFPD, community members, and organizations to identify and address local topics of concern

- **Objective 3.2:** Collaboratively identify and develop responses to local issues and concerns with individuals, community-based organizations, and city services
 - Through the regularly scheduled meetings with community stakeholders, victim services groups and partner City agencies, SVU is able to hear firsthand any concerns expressed by each stakeholder.
 - Each participant is able to speak with regard to their respective agency or groups concerns as it relates to investigations. System issues are discussed, and members provide solutions to any issues that have arisen since the previous meeting.

Community Partners

Family Violence Council

Department on Status of Women

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Recovery/Rape Treatment Center

Child and Adolescent Support, Resource and Advocacy Center (CASARC)

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

Family and Children Services (FCS/CPS)

Justice and Courage Community Group

Adult Protective Services

Asian Pacific American Community Center

Institute of Aging

Community Events

SVU engages the community in several ways. Below are examples:

- **Stakeholder Meetings**

- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month
- Child and Adolescent Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (CASARC) meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- The Family Violence Council meets quarterly on a predetermined date
- Family and Children Services (FCS/CPS) meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- District Attorney Monthly Meetings meet every 1st Friday of the month.
- Institute on Aging's Elder Abuse Prevention Program do check-ins every other Thursdays.

- **Victim Advocate Conferences**

- **Community Meetings**

- **National Night Out**

- **Focus Groups**

Metrics

The goal of the SVU Community Policing Plan is the continued use of communication channels and education developed with community stakeholders and victim service groups to further the Department's goals and objectives. The following will be tracked to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan:

- Community events attended
- Focus group discussion and results
- Concerns expressed by partner City agencies/stakeholders
- Details on information provided to various groups
- Educational information provided at each meeting



Denim Day 2024

Review and improvements

Our yearly improvements:

This past year, the Captain decided that SVU needed to take more of a leadership role in Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). A Department Notice was issued, and a purple pin was provided so that all sworn officers could take part in the DV Awareness. SVU provided posters, stickers and car magnets to each district station so that the community we serve gets our message about stopping the violence. SVU is also working toward a more survivor centered, trauma informed way of treating our victim/survivors by utilizing the newest trauma informed interview techniques.

The Sex Offender Unit was revamped over the last year by putting two of our most senior investigators from SVU into the unit. Our district stations now have Sex Offender books identifying each district's 290 Registrants. The SOU also appointed 290 liaison officers for each district station to assist SOU with city wide 290 operations and keeping the sex offender books current and up to date. SOU now drafts arrest warrants for sex offenders who are out of compliance.

SVU also made our DV resource guides into a QR Code that was published for DV Awareness month so that a victim survivor can scan the QR code instead of having paper documents that can get lost.

Review and improvement continued...

SVU will utilize the following to constantly review progress on our plan. This will allow for changes to be made to the plan, to ensure its effectiveness.

- Use of focus groups
- Surveys
- Community Input
- Meetings with community stakeholders
- Meetings with Victim Advocate groups



Thank you.
Any questions?

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