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WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

SFWPC Statement on the Treatment of Women and Gender-Diverse People in San Francisco County Jail

March 12, 2026

Public Safety & Neighbourhood Services Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, #244,
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Statement on the Treatment of Women and Gender-Diverse People in San Francisco County Jail

Dear Supervisor Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC) strongly condemns reports that nearly two dozen incarcerated women in San Francisco County Jail were subjected to mass strip searches in May 2025, during which Sheriff's deputies required women to disrobe while being filmed on body-worn cameras.

This conduct violates basic human dignity. San Francisco must make clear that practices that degrade, humiliate, or retraumatize individuals in custody have no place in our public safety system.

Many of the women held in San Francisco County Jail are survivors of violence, and the majority are in pretrial detention and have not been convicted of a crime. Non-individualized strip searches and the recording of individuals in states of forced nudity compound trauma, worsen mental health outcomes, and erode public trust in the institutions meant to keep our communities safe.

San Francisco's commitment to gender equity and human dignity must extend to every person in this city's custody. With a hearing before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, SFWPC urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt the following community demands:

- Suspension and removal of deputies and supervisors involved in the reported abuses



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- A fully independent, community-informed investigation with transparent reporting of findings
- Protections against retaliation and harassment toward individuals in custody who report abuse
- Policies limiting strip searches strictly to circumstances involving individualized reasonable suspicion
- Immediate securing and preservation of body-camera footage related to the reported incidents for investigation purposes, barring access by involved personnel, with footage deletion upon completion of all investigations and litigation
- Access to independent, community-based counseling and support services for impacted individuals

These immediate steps must also be part of a broader reckoning with how San Francisco funds and oversees public safety. Full funding of the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and the hiring of an Independent Inspector General are foundations for meaningful accountability and future Sheriff's Office funding should reflect whether those standards are being met.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SFWPC Board of Directors