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SF SHERIFF WINS COURT CHALLENGE AND PROTECTS LANDMARK TGN POLICY

A San Francisco Superior Court Judge rejected a challenge to a key part of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department groundbreaking, Transgender, Gender Variant and Non-Binary (TGN) policy and procedures. The San Francisco Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) had filed the challenge to the search policy on February 23, 2018.

"Our TGN policy is about respecting TGN individuals, making them feel safe and facilitating their participation in County Jail rehabilitation programs," says Sheriff Vicki Hennessy. "This reduces the chances that TGN individuals will reoffend and that's an outcome we want for all individuals in our custody."

Effective February 20, 2018, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department TGN policy and procedures are among the first in the nation to address TGN inmates and cover several changes including inmate searches that are responsive to gender identity, housing assignments and gender awareness training for Sheriff's Deputies and civilian employees.

The DSA had filed the motion for a preliminary injunction regarding the search policy, asserting that TGN-unknown deputy sheriffs who were asked to search a TGN inmate would have their privacy violated. The judge rejected this argument, stating the "undisputed evidence showed that deputies are not required to disclose anything....they are assigned to conduct searches by how they identify and present themselves at work, which is the same way the former search policy worked."

Throughout policy development, the Sheriff's Department consulted and collaborated with multiple stakeholders and partners including the San Francisco Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA); San Francisco Sheriff's Managers and Supervisors Association (MSA); TGN advocates and experts such as San Francisco Human Rights Commission Executive Director Theresa Sparks and Retired San Francisco Police Department Lieutenant Stephan Thorne; Transgender Law Center; Just Detention International; San Francisco Police Department; Department of Public Health; San Francisco City Attorney; San Francisco District Attorney; and the Attorney General of the State of California.

[Click here](#) to read a summary of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department Policy and Procedure Changes.

The San Francisco City Attorney's Office represented the Sheriff's Department in court on this matter.

Led by elected Sheriff Vicki Hennessy, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department serves the people of San Francisco by administering the county jails, providing security for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and performing civil court orders. The Sheriff's Department employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees.