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18-040
02/27/18

**Release of Information to the News Media and/or Public Regarding
Homicide Detail Investigations**
(Supersedes DB 17-149)

Members are reminded that all media inquiries regarding Homicide Detail investigations should be referred to the Media Relations Unit, except that members may provide the following information only:

- (1) What type of investigation is being conducted, and
- (2) Generally where the incident allegedly occurred.

Any information regarding any open homicide investigation (including officer-involved-shootings, in-custody deaths and suspicious death investigations) **shall not** be released to the public and/or the media without prior express approval from:


- (1) The Chief of Police (or designee),
- (2) The Assistant Chief of Operations,
- (3) The Deputy Chief of the Field Operations Bureau,
- (4) The Commander of Investigations,
- (5) The Captain of Major Crimes, or
- (6) The Officer-in-Charge of the Homicide Detail,

It is important that members understand that this order includes all aspects of Homicide Detail investigations, including but not limited to: the identity of homicide victims, suspects, witnesses, name of involved officers, statements or other information, booking photos and any facts concerning arrest or search warrants related to the investigation.

The Department's goal is to prevent the untimely release of information that may compromise an Investigation.

The Community Engagement Division (CED) serves as a liaison between the Department and the family of any subject who dies as a result of SFPD action (officer involved shooting, in-custody death, etc.). The CED, with the approval of a member outlined above, is responsible for providing the family with a point of contact, information regarding the investigative process, and the date, time and location of any town hall or community meeting(s) related to the investigation. Updates to the investigation will be handled by the homicide sergeants.

Members assigned to the Airport Bureau shall adhere to San Mateo County protocols for investigations.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DB 17-080, both sworn and non-sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Bulletin in HRMS.