



## A Community Update from the San Francisco District Attorney's Office

Dear Community Members:

As the new school year has begun in San Francisco, we have seen some encouraging progress in our fight against the Delta variant. I am proud that our vigilance as a community has spared us from more severe community spread. Our office and other local agencies continue to follow the best practices set out by public health experts to stop the spread of the disease.

The pandemic has also impacted our city and country in other ways. Although overall crime rates have declined in San Francisco, our city and other cities nationwide have faced a troubling increase in gun violence. We prioritize holding those individuals who commit acts of gun violence accountable. We also know we must do more to stop gun violence *before* it happens.

In this newsletter, I am proud to share with you our office's recent, groundbreaking work to get guns off our streets. I will also share some additional updates since our [last newsletter](#) a few weeks ago. In coordination with our law enforcement and community partners, we will continue our work of building a safer and more just San Francisco.

Chesa Boudin  
San Francisco District Attorney

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# In Our Courts



## Litigation Update

Court access remains short of pre-pandemic levels, and the courts continue to experience a significant backlog. Just last week, despite both our office and the defense calling ready for a serious trial, it was continued by the court until early next year.

Nonetheless, we have been able to bring more cases to trial in recent weeks. As I am writing this newsletter, our lawyers are in trial on several serious cases including charges of homicide, sexual assault, arson, and assault with a deadly weapon. We will continue to push as many cases to trial as we can so we can seek justice and bring closure to victims.

## Groundbreaking Civil Prosecution Against Ghost Gun Manufacturers

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As our nation grapples with a rise in gun violence, we know that interventions after violence has occurred come too late. In addition to our work to hold those who commit gun violence accountable, we must take action to get guns off the street.

That is why, last week, we partnered with the [Giffords Law Center](#) and [Keker, Van Nest & Peters](#) to file an historic [civil prosecution](#) against three companies that manufacture and retail ghost guns.

Ghost guns are unregulated, untraceable weapons that are ordered online in prepackaged kits and are easily assembled with common tools. These fully-functional firearms lack serial numbers and do not undergo safety testing, background checks, or registration, which means they can easily get into the hands of children and people who are legally prohibited from owning guns. Using household tools, one of my inspectors was able to assemble a ghost gun ordered online in less than 30 minutes. He was then able to fire the gun.

Ghost guns are a significant problem in San Francisco. In 2020, [nearly half](#) of guns connected to gun homicides in San Francisco were ghost guns—a dramatic increase from 2019, when that number was just 6 percent. In the past four years, the number of ghost guns recovered by police in San Francisco increased by more than 2,000 percent. Of the ghost guns seized federally by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), more than 65 percent were from California alone.



We are proud to be holding accountable the corporations responsible for flooding our streets with these deadly, illegal weapons. We will continue to fight to end gun violence.



Ghost guns assembled by our investigators in minimal times from a kit easily ordered on the Internet in August, 2021 and shipped directly to San Francisco.

Watch our press conference announcing the ghost gun litigation [here](#). Read local coverage of our ghost gun litigation by the San Francisco Chronicle [here](#). Watch coverage of our ghost gun litigation on [KTVU](#) here. Read national coverage of our ghost gun litigation in the New York Times [here](#).

## **Filing of Hate Crime Charges for String of Crimes Against Chinese-Owned Businesses**

Last week we announced the filing of 33 charges and 31 hate crime enhancements for 27 separate incidents of burglary and vandalism against 20 primarily Chinese-owned businesses. We filed the hate crime enhancement based on evidence that the defendant targeted businesses he believed to be Chinese-owned.

We know this string of crimes was tremendously upsetting for the AAPI community, and we stand in support of all who are victimized by violence or hate. There is no place for hate in San Francisco and we will hold accountable those responsible for hate crimes.

If you have witnessed or experienced a hate crime, please call our Hate Crime hotline at (628) 652-4311.

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# In Our Office

## New Chief of Victim Services

We are pleased to announce Kasie Lee, who was serving as an Assistant District Attorney in our Juvenile Unit, as our Interim Chief of Victim Services Division. Kasie has a long track record of providing direct legal services to vulnerable people, including victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Kasie is also fluent in Cantonese and has been actively involved in the AAPI community, further expanding our language services to our monolingual victims and witnesses. We are thrilled to welcome her to this new role, where she has already been thriving.

Watch Kasie Lee discuss her new role and career on our [Facebook Live](#).



# New Office Policies

## Pronoun Policy to Respect LGBTQIA Rights

In June, as a part of Pride Month, we announced and implemented a [Gender Neutral and Gender Inclusive Pronoun Policy](#) directing our staff to both inquire and use correct pronouns, names, and titles for crime victims, witnesses, and the accused in a criminal case. This policy is the first of its kind of any prosecutor's office in California.

Transgender people are disproportionately victimized by violent crime and hate. We believe that this policy will promote public safety and increase tolerance while honoring the humanity of all members of the LGBTQIA community. We were honored to have Former State Senator Mark Leno; Former Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, Chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party Honey Mahogany, and Co-President of Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Kaylah Williams join us for our press conference.

Watch our press conference announcing our pronoun policy [here](#). Read about our pronoun policy in the Bay Area Reporter [here](#).



# In Our Community

## Community Outreach

### Community Liaison Program

Last year we launched our [Community Liaisons program](#) to create a direct line of communication between our office and the communities we serve. Our Community Liaisons Program pairs teams of District Attorney's Office staff with each of the eleven supervisorial districts of the city so that our office can be directly responsive to the needs of our constituents in each district.

We are pleased that Assistant District Attorney **Cecily Brewster** recently stepped up as our full-time Program Coordinator. Please reach out to our office or to Cecily to be connected with your community liaisons.

## Community Events

### Merchant Walks

We value every opportunity to engage directly with the people and businesses who make up our community. This month, members of our staff and I enjoyed merchant walks in Districts 1 and 3.

Earlier this week, Edward Siu, Chairman of the Chinatown Merchants United Association and Laura Lee, Secretary of BeChinatown accompanied me to visit numerous stores in District 3. We traveled along Stockton Street between Sacramento and Jackson and stopped in to meet the owners and employees of local businesses including Rainbow Photography, Metro Hong Kong Dessert, and Golden Way Trading Company.

Earlier in August, we visited stores in District 1 along Clement Street including Green Apple Books, Xiao Long Bao, and Kamei Housewares & Restaurant Supply. Thank you so much to all of the businesses that hosted us, we look forward to visiting again soon.

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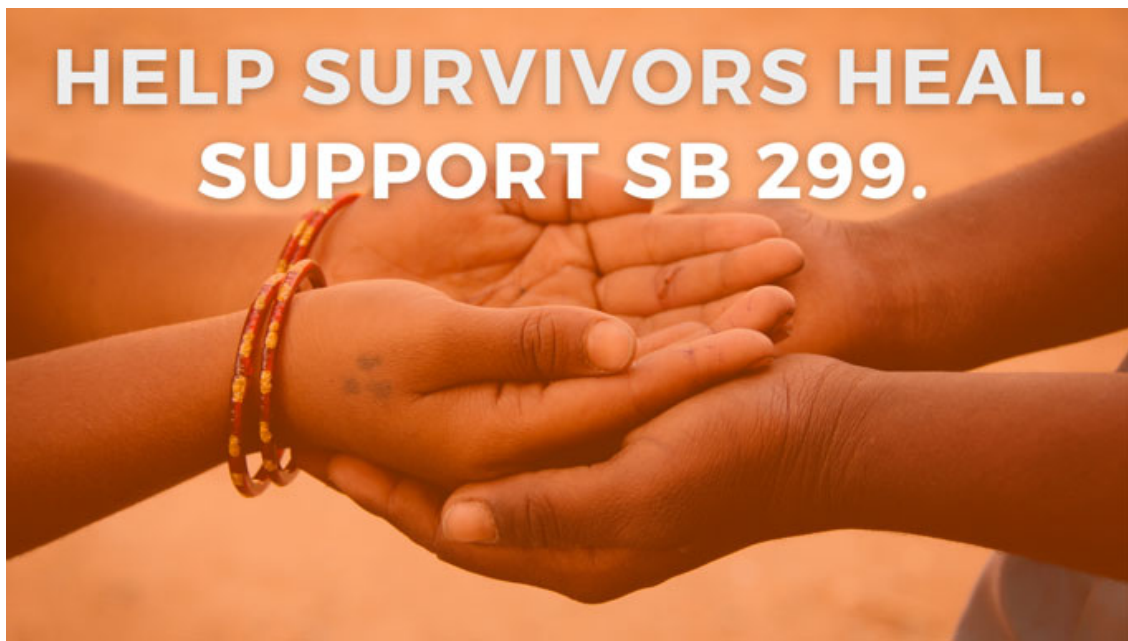
## In the Legislature

This year, in addition to our work to support numerous bills in the state legislature, I co-sponsored six separate bills to promote justice in our state.

### Victim Advocacy Bills

- As part of our work to combat hate crimes, I cosponsored AB 886, authored by Assemblymember David Chiu, to support victims of hate crimes in new ways.
- I also cosponsored SB 299 to expand victim resources to victims of police violence. Authored by Senator Connie Leyva, this bill builds off our office's innovative program to compensate victims of police violence like any other crime victims.





## Police Accountability Bills

- I am proud to have cosponsored AB 127, authored by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager, to eliminate obstacles to police accountability in instances when a police officer is unwilling to assist in a prosecution of another officer. Governor Newsom signed this important legislation into law on June 28. Read about Governor Newsom signing our cosponsored bill, AB 127, [here](#).
- I also am proud to have cosponsored Senator Steven Bradford's SB 710, which aims to cure the conflict of interest that occurs when prosecutors accept political and financial support from law enforcement unions and then make decisions about if and when to prosecute officers who are members of those unions.

## Other Bills to Promote Justice and Fairness

- The pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to support vulnerable youth. I cosponsored SB 739, authored by Senator Dave Cortese, which establishes a three-year pilot program to provide monthly payments to youth who have aged out of the extended foster care program. Foster youth are more likely to become homeless, have parents who are incarcerated, and become involved in the criminal justice system themselves. SB 739 became law in June and will go a long way to assist vulnerable young people.
  - I also cosponsored AB 1452, authored by Assemblymember Phil Ting, to support a pilot program to compensate jurors for their service. This bill would help promote diversity in our jury pools and promote fairness in the legal process.
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# In Closing

We are making great strides together. I am tremendously proud of our recent work to seek justice for crime victims and survivors; to hold ghost gun manufacturers accountable; and to strengthen our community ties.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve each of you, and I remain committed to the safety and well-being of everyone in San Francisco.  
Thank you for being a part of our community.



Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney

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