



**The Disarmament and Reform of the Department of Public Safety Officers**  
Resolution 20-21-10

**Whereas:** The University of San Francisco aims to promote the values of Cura Personalis, or care for the whole person, commitment to diversity, and people for others; and

**Whereas:** the University prides itself for its diverse student body, yet proceeds to feed into centuries-long racial injustices by forcibly placing Black-identifying, Indigenous, and other students of color in the damaging presence of armed officers on our campus; and

**Whereas:** the University has undoubtedly neglected the extensive history of police brutality and policing by permitting the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to carry lethal firearms; more specifically, semi-automatic guns, also known as Glocks; and

**Whereas:** Glocks are lethal weapons that cause permanent and irreversible solutions to temporary problems, in addition to evoking intense indignation that affects the well-being of BIPOC students; and

**Whereas:** the requirement to carry firearms is an ignorant response to not only historical events but our current circumstances; in particular, the protests in 2020 that addressed the inequitable reality of police brutality and the undeniable racism in our country; and

**Whereas:** the Department of Public Safety values safety, security, and actively promotes community involvement through progressive community policing strategies<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas:** the Department of Public Safety implemented the Progressive Policing Community Advisory Board (PPCAB) to provide community collaboration about fair, equitable, and effective police practices<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas:** the Department of Public Safety does not need firearms to ensure safety because there are various police stations in a one-mile radius; and

**Whereas:** the University is securely surrounded by the Park Police Station, SFPD Richmond Police Station and the SFPD Northern District Police Station; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://myusf.usfca.edu/public-safety-transportation/clery-report/departement-of-public-safety>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://myusf.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/users/kklaguire/DPS/Progressive%20Policing%20Community%20Advisory%20Board.pdf>



**Whereas:** in the unlikely event that the Park Station is unable to respond, the SFPD Richmond Police Station and the SFPD Northern District Police Station will respond promptly during critical situations; and

**Whereas:** the Department of Public Safety also has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SFPD, which requires Public Safety Officers to report all felonies, which extends to several severe or dangerous occurrences, to the already armed SFPD; and

**Whereas:** according to the Daily Crime and Fire Logs<sup>3</sup> from the past eight years, the University's Public Safety Officers have never used their firearms and referred numerous reports to the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), thus proving the Public Safety Officer's weapons to be unnecessary and redundant; and

**Whereas:** the University stands as the only Jesuit University on the West Coast to permit their Public Safety sector lethal firearms; and

**Whereas:** the university has prompted the Department of Public Safety to have uniforms uncomfortably similar to the SFPD, fueling an unjust power dynamic between students and Public Safety Officers; and

**Whereas:** other Jesuit Universities like Santa Clara University, have reformed their Campus Safety to resemble the students they serve by requiring their Campus Safety Team to wear khakis and polos<sup>4</sup>, eradicating the provocative image of police forces; and

**Whereas:** the University has had previous encounters and complaints regarding the presence of armed officers; and

**Whereas:** in September 2020, the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco passed the "Resolution for the Regulation of Public Safety Rounds in Residence Halls" (2021) because, as demonstrated in Senator Riley's (2019-2020) resolution, the Black-identifying student population felt targeted in the presence of armed Public Safety Officers; and

**Whereas:** the armed Public Safety Officers have instilled fear into our students, who expect to feel welcomed and safe, regardless of their ethnic background or racial profile; and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://myusf.usfca.edu/public-safety-transportation/annual-clery-report/daily-crime-fire-log>

<sup>4</sup> <https://university-operations.scu.edu/campus-safety/>



**Whereas:** the given testimonies of countless student-led organizations demonstrate the opposition to having firearms on campus and how they believe safety is obtainable without having guns. The following paragraphs are statements given to the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco,

*“As a representative of the Culturally Focused Clubs Council, we denounce the possession of firearms by campus Public Safety Officers. We as the council do not perceive a need for the public safety officers to carry firearms on their person for 2 main reasons. One being that given the nature of policing and people of color, this puts our students of color at an exponentially higher risk of being harmed because of their identities. This is not a risk that we as students, or the university, should be willing to take. The second reason being, contrary to popular belief, is the fact that having firearms on campus makes students feel incredibly unsafe. The mere presence of firearms on the person of a public safety officer may deter students from calling them in a time of crisis, for fear that their weapons may be used where they aren't needed as we have seen with policing in many areas of the United States. If we want our students of color to feel safe on campus, public safety does not need guns to achieve this. Instead what we need is trust. We need to be able to trust our public safety officers to carry out their duties to protect the wellbeing of students. Anything that stands in the way of our ability to feel protected, must be taken seriously.” — Jada Commodore, CFCC President*

*“The University of San Francisco’s Black Student Union is in favor of the resolution to disarm officers of the Department of Public Safety. The presence and attitude of Public Safety officers in campus spaces has continued to make Black students feel unsafe and surveilled. These officers having lethal weapons has also contributed to, as well as triggered Black student’s trauma surrounding the prevalence of anti-Black hate and death at the hands of police. As a community, we do not condone the presence of firearms on our campus and find them to be counterproductive to student’s safety. ” —Black Student Union*

**Whereas:** given the proximity of three local police stations, frequently reporting cases to the SFPD, and the evidence proving Public Safety has never needed to fire a lethal weapon on University grounds, there is no need for the Public Safety Officer's firearms; therefore be it

**Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate in its role as the sole representative body of all the undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, that the following be enacted:**



**Resolved:** that the University of San Francisco's Department of Public Safety Officers are disarmed and remain disarmed, effective immediately; furthermore be it

**Resolved:** that the Progressive Policing Community Advisory Board (PPCAB) provides at least four additional seats for, but not limited to, Student Representatives from student organizations, such as the Middle Eastern and North African Club, the Culturally Focused Clubs Council, Black Student Union and Latinas Unidas; furthermore be it

**Resolved:** that in addition to the University seizing the Department of Public Safety's firearms, the University changes the Department of Public Safety Officer's uniforms; furthermore be it

**Resolved:** the University acknowledges all of these factors to be detrimental to the vast population of their institution as well as preserving the undeniable narrative of systemic racism in police forces.

**Submitted by:**

Sarah L. Chavez, *College of Arts and Sciences Representative*

**Supported by:**

Rebecca Muñoz, *ASUSF Senior Class Representative*

Lovepreet Dhinsa, *ASUSF Junior Class Representative*

Bianca Mantovani, *ASUSF Sophomore Class Representative*

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*Culturally Focused Clubs Council*

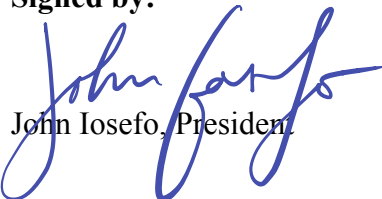
*USF Black Student Union*

**Presented to the Senate on:**

March 24, 2021

**Passed by the Senate on:** April 7, 2021

**Signed by:**



John Iosefo, President