



Defending Democracy and Civil Rights in the courts and in the streets.

Rachel Lederman • 1720 Broadway, Suite 430, Oakland, CA 94612
415.508.4955 • rachel.lederman@justiceonline.org • JusticeOnline.org

June 27, 2024

Chief William Scott
San Francisco Police Department
william.scott@sfgov.org

Sabrina Berdux, Margaret S. Schroeder, Zuzana Ikels
Deputy City Attorneys
sabrina.m.berdux@sfcityatty.org
deedee.schroeder@sfcityatty.org
zuzana.ikels@sfcityatty.org

Re: Dolores Hill Bomb, July 6, 2024

Chief and counsel:

San Francisco youth skaters are expected to participate in the annual Hill Bomb on the evening of July 6, as they have for the past decade. SFPD's public statement indicates that its response will be the same or worse than last year instead of acting to protect youth safety and reaching out to the community, as it previously publicly stated it would. As you know, we are involved in class action litigation against the City and SFPD supervisors on behalf of the 113 minors and young adults who were corralled, trapped and mass arrested on 17th Street last year, including numerous young people who were trying to go home, or simply passing through the area. They were then held for hours outdoors in deplorable conditions, including some as young as 13.

In addition, kinetic energy projectiles were used on children in a manner prohibited by Penal Code section 13652. § 13652 prohibits the use of kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents to disperse any assembly and provides puts a number of conditions on their use. These projectiles can cause serious injuries or death and are particularly dangerous in crowds because of the high risk of hitting the wrong person or the wrong part of the body.

It appears that once again, City agencies have not prepared for the event by reaching out to and working with skaters to address safety concerns and protect young people as they should. Instead, SFPD is already threatening another lawbreaking event by the police – a mass arrest. The SFPD is falsely claiming that the 2023 arrest was of “people who chose to continue to commit violence and property destruction” when the SFPD knows full well it conducted an indiscriminate arrest of youth by herding and kettling them. SFPD's announcement that, “We will do the same this year,” shows that the SFPD is ratifying its prior unlawful conduct and has failed to heed the requests of the community or learn any lessons from its prior misconduct.



Defending Democracy and Civil Rights in the courts and in the streets.

Rachel Lederman • 1720 Broadway, Suite 430, Oakland, CA 94612
415.508.4955 • rachel.lederman@justiceonline.org • JusticeOnline.org

If SFPD takes an aggressive and provocative approach again this year, it is predictable that the SFPD will create a situation resulting in unlawful arrests, unlawful force on minors, and attendant liability to the City, as well as injuries and trauma to our community's youth. The teens arrested last year have described now mistrusting police and feeling less safe when officers are nearby – a cycle that will only continue if the SFPD continues to act unlawfully.

When dealing with this or any event that poses challenges, the City must change its approach to one that truly protects our community and keeps it safe. That will not happen through increasingly aggressive and militarized policing. Civilian agencies should be managing this event collaboratively with the skateboard community and engage in de-escalation. Youth are our future; criminalizing them goes against San Francisco's interests and values.

Our organization is prepared to take all appropriate legal action to address further civil rights violations.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lederman
Attorney at Law