

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

CHARGES AGAINST 2019 PRIDE PARADE DEMONSTRATORS DROPPED

This resolution is the outcome that SF Pride had pressed for since the incident occurred.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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San Francisco Pride is excited to report that the District Attorney's office has dismissed charges against the demonstrators arrested at the 2019 Pride Parade. The moment the incident on Market Street first came to our attention, SF Pride staff rushed to the scene to intervene, arriving within minutes. Unfortunately, before SF Pride could peacefully facilitate an audience for the demonstrators' concerns, the situation escalated and two individuals were subsequently detained and charged with misdemeanor offenses.

From the beginning, SF Pride has called for an investigation into the incident with the Department of Police Accountability. (That investigation is ongoing, and we remain eager to see its findings.)

*"In the eight months since the Parade, we have followed all developments in this case closely, and maintaining our request that the charges be dropped," SF Pride Executive Director **Fred Lopez** said. "The SF Pride Parade is seen worldwide as a beacon of free expression, and our team strives to create an inclusive event that makes space for many viewpoints."*

SF Pride had vocally called upon the district attorney's to drop the charges lodged against the demonstrators — specifically, resisting arrest and disrupting a parade. Shortly after taking office, District Attorney Chesa Boudin responded.

*"I remember my personal disappointment watching those involved be detained on the Parade route as my fellow board members and I attempted to have dialogue with the demonstrators," Board President **Carolyn Wysinger** said. "I am so proud that we have continued the work that began that day to have these charges dropped. I am thankful to our community for holding us accountable, and proud of our team for their relentless work in making sure that no one is penalized for doing exactly what Marsha P. Johnson did when she threw the first brick at Stonewall."*

Following this resolution, SF Pride will continue to engage with community leaders about the presence of police in Pride and other large-scale events; increased accountability for law enforcement in the communities they serve; and about the role that organizations like SF Pride may play in these discussions.

We are committed to social justice both inside and outside the LGBTQ community, and we are very pleased with this outcome.

Fred Lopez
Executive Director, SF Pride



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