



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PICO California Hails the Resignation of San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr As A Long Overdue Victory in the Continued Fight for Police Accountability

PICO California issued the following statement in response to the resignation of now former SFPD Chief Greg Suhr just hours after another unarmed Black person, Jessica Nelson, was killed by SFPD officers:

Yesterday, Jessica Nelson, a 27-year old unarmed Black woman, was gunned down by San Francisco police officers on a dead end street in the industrial area of the Bayview community. Just hours after her untimely murder, San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee publicly called for now former San Francisco Police Department Chief Gregory Suhr's resignation.

"There have been countless protests led by prophetic young leaders, organizing sessions in homes led by San Francisco natives, and a 17-day hunger strike led by passionate artists, educators, and community leaders. Still, it took the death of our black woman to bring this justice to pass! We declare that no longer shall the blood of our people be the currency by which American systems reconcile their past-due invoices of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. No longer shall we celebrate the calculated cowardice of mayors, district attorneys, and "so-called" departments of justice masked as incremental progress," explains Rev. Ben McBride, a San Francisco native and Regional Director of Clergy Development for PICO California.

Suhr's resignation comes after months of activists, faith leaders, community members, and supporters around the globe rallying together to force Suhr's resignation or termination. The urgency for a change in SFPD leadership continually increased following the murders of Black and Brown men like Mario Woods, Alex Nieto, O'Shaine Evans, and Amilcar Perez Lopez. Had significant reforms and measures for police accountability been implemented and the rallying calls of thousands of concerned individuals not fallen on deaf ears by those in positions of leadership and elected power including Mayor Lee, San Francisco Police Officers Association, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and far too many others, perhaps Ms. Nelson's death could have been prevented.

"We say YOU WILL NOT KILL US ANY LONGER! The end of tyranny by Greg Suhr may be over, but we choose to remember our dear sister, Jessica Nelson, whose blood is on the hands of the leaders of San Francisco," states Rev. McBride.

PICO California mourns the unnecessary death of Ms. Nelson and we send our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and community.

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PICO California is the state's largest community organizing network. We organize in 73 cities, 15 school districts, and in more than one-half of the state's Senate and Assembly districts. PICO California was established in 1994, bringing together local federations from throughout California to affect meaningful budget and policy change at the state level. Over the past 20 years, our organizing and policy advocacy has resulted in increased investments in education and healthcare, and in programs and services that are critical for working families. Together, we represent 480 congregations and 450,000 families of diverse economic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds committed to advancing racial and economic justice in California through organizing, advocacy, and voter engagement. Visit www.PICOCalifornia.org to learn more.



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