

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 24, 2018

CONTACT:

Demarris R. Evans

Racial Justice Committee Chair

San Francisco Public Defender's Office

415-553-9350 (office)

510-866-9280 (cell)

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON FAILURE OF DA TO CHARGE POLICE IN KILLINGS

San Francisco—Racial Justice Committee Chairperson Demarris Evans of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office today released the following statement on the San Francisco District Attorney's decision not to pursue charges against officers in the fatal shootings of Mario Woods and Luis Gongora Pat.

“The failure of the District Attorney to pursue accountability for the police killings of Mario Woods and Luis Gongora Pat is another message to the San Francisco community that black and brown lives do not matter. The video footage of Mario Woods' murder clearly showed that killing him was excessive force gone mad. There were numerous alternatives to this SFPD firing squad. There was no effort made to de-escalate and to spare his life. The lack of any attempt to seek justice and hold any officers accountable for this shooting is completely unacceptable. A similar analysis applies to the police killing of Luis Gongora Pat. Police shot him within seconds of exiting their vehicle. Both of these killings were completely avoidable and the failure of the District Attorney to let the citizens of San Francisco decide whether or not there is criminal liability is nothing more than a cover up for racist killer cops. All lives do not matter as long as black and brown bodies are gunned down by police with impunity. This decision by the San Francisco District Attorney pours salt on the wounds of people of color in San Francisco who are barely healing from the trauma of seeing people who look like them consistently being gunned down in cold blood by the very officers who are supposed to protect them.”