

LURIE FOR MAYOR

SAN FRANCISCO

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FARRELL TALKS TOUGH BUT FAILED TO ACT IN OFFICE

Overdoses & homelessness went up while officer numbers went down in the Farrell Administration

SAN FRANCISCO—Today, Daniel Lurie's campaign released the following statement about former Interim Mayor Mark Farrell's headline chasing after years of inaction on officer retention, closing down drug markets, and building the treatment infrastructure needed.

*“Mark can release plans and make promises until he’s blue in the face but it’s all worthless without follow-through - and he’s shown throughout his long career in politics that he doesn’t follow through,” **said Lurie for Mayor Consultant Tyler Law.** “In his short stint as mayor, Mark obstructed officer pay raises, failed to support policies to keep more officers from retiring, and fell short of his promise to clear homeless encampments. The result is that law enforcement numbers went down while crime and drug overdoses went up. If Mark expects voters to forget that he spent nearly a decade in City Hall failing to address the same crisis he’s now discovering, he’s in for a rude awakening in November.”*

Yesterday, Daniel Lurie called for a citywide fentanyl state of emergency at a [press conference](#) with former Mayor and Police Chief Frank Jordan. Lurie explained how the state of emergency would help to more rapidly implement the comprehensive behavioral health plan he released a full month ago:

LURIE’S 6-POINT PLAN TO ADDRESS THE DRUG & MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

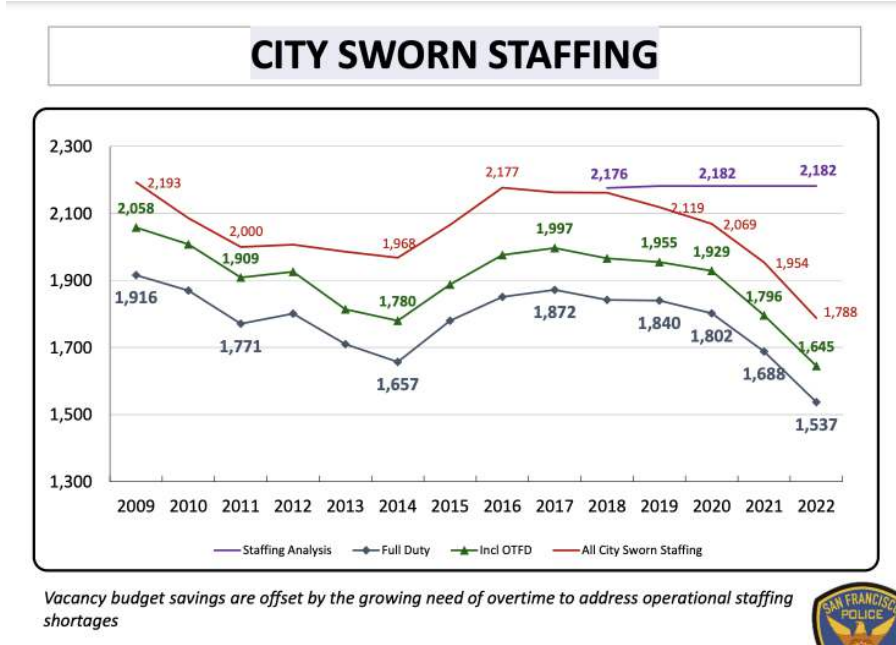
Farrell’s Failure to Address Rising Overdose Deaths & Homelessness:

- Under Mark Farrell’s leadership, overdose deaths began to rapidly increase in 2018, the start of the trend that would continue until 2024. From 2018 to 2019, overdose deaths involving fentanyl increased 169% from 89 to 239 deaths.
 - During his eight years as Supervisor and Mayor, Farrell failed to propose any scalable plans to address the rising number of overdose deaths happening on his watch.
- The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury published a [report](#) investigating the partnership between the Department of Public Health and SFPD to form Crisis Intervention teams covering November 2017 – May 2018 – Most of Farrell’s mayoral tenure. The report found numerous shortcomings in the SFPD’s implementation of Crisis Intervention training, a lack of coordination both within and between the DPH and SFPD – a lack of coordination which was aggravated by outdated technology and recordkeeping systems & habits.
- According to the biannual point-in-time count, the number of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco [increased](#) by 1,177 between 2017 and 2019, a jump of approximately 16%. This was the largest increase in the population since 2011 to 2013.

Farrell’s Absentee Leadership on Officer Pay & Subsequent Decline in Police Staffing:

- According to a scathing [2018 letter from the San Francisco Police Officers Association \(SFPOA\)](#) regarding officer pay, “**Mayor Mark Farrell**, DHR Director Micki Callahan, and some members of the Board of Supervisors believe that either our cops do not deserve or are entitled to comparable raises of our counterparts in Bay Area law enforcement agencies. Or, they just don’t care.”
- As the SFPOA worked to negotiate in good faith negotiating raises, the letter goes on to state that they had been “stalled and obstructed by the City decision makers (DHR Micki Callahan, **Mayor Mark Farrell**, etc.) who were either *non-engaged* or *absent* from the entire process.”
- Additionally, the SFPOA pointedly placed blame on Farrell for officer retention issues, an issue that haunts this city today as our police force grapples with staff shortages. The [letter](#) highlights that Farrell allocated \$45 million of city funds to new programs to “clean the streets,” yet not a fraction of that money went to our police force, and “that money could keep our cops on the streets rather than retiring early, and it could recruit the best and the brightest to fill their spots.”

As a result, shortly after Farrell departed as Mayor, the police department entered a precipitous decline dropping from 1,966 officers in 2018 to 1,574 in 2023. This was despite Farrell's pledge while mayor to institute a four-year police staffing revamp that would put \$22 million towards getting 250 additional police officers on the streets by 2022. The graph below charts sworn staffing:



(City of San Francisco, "[Budget Presentation: San Francisco Police Department](#)," January 18, 2023)

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