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BODY SCANNERS SCHEDULED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AT SF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

San Francisco, CA, February 22, 2018 -- The San Francisco Sheriff's Department (SFSD) received \$300,000 in funding for two body scanners in the 2017-18 budget through Sheriff Vicki Hennessy's leadership. Final contract approval from the San Francisco Office of Contract Administration (OCA) is expected soon with anticipated delivery by July 2018.

"Early in my administration, I began working on securing funding for body scanners to minimize the number of legal strip searches the Sheriff's Department performs," said Sheriff Hennessy. Sheriff's Deputies only perform legally allowable strip searches based on the arrestee's charges and/or criminal history.

The body scanners will be installed at County Jail #1, the SFSD intake facility located at 425 - 7th Street, and County Jail #5, located in San Bruno.

The issue of body scanners has become a talking point for the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff's Association president Ken Lomba who has demanded the "immediate transition to body scanners" in response to the Sheriff's Department new Transgender, Gender Variant and Non-Binary (TGN) policies and procedures enacted this past Tuesday, February 18.

Body scanners and less intrusive devices are considered effective tools to detect contraband. "A legal strip search would still be triggered if the scanner indicates that an inmate is possibly concealing contraband including weapons or drugs," said Sheriff Hennessy. "Our number one priority is safety for all: staff, inmates, visitors and service providers."

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved the cost of two scanners in 2017 as part of the Mayor's 2017-18 fiscal budget.

Led by elected Sheriff Vicki Hennessy, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department serves the people of San Francisco by administering the county jails, providing security for the Superior Court and other high-profile public buildings, and performing civil court orders. The Sheriff's Department employs more than 850 sworn staff and almost 200 non-sworn employees.