

DGO 5.23 -SFPD Policy Working Group Recommendations and Discussion Tracking as of 08/26/2025

#	Working Group Recommendations	Page Number	Meeting Date	SFPD Response	SFPD Explanation	Open/Closed
R1	Change Definition of "Deaf and Hard of Hearing" to be broader but more defined.		8/26/2025		New definition: A person with temporary or permanent restrictions to their hearing that limits access to sound and spoken language. Communication preferences and abilities will vary widely among individuals. The new language will be reviewed in a future working group meeting.	Open
R2	DPA submitted a recommendation that the scope of the DGO be expanded to encompass all disabilities.		8/26/2025		Command Staff has reviewed the proposed change and does not concur. The scope of this Department General Order will remain limited to interactions with individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This limitation is necessary because these contacts present unique risks of escalation if officers misinterpret a lack of response as non-compliance, when in fact the individual requires accommodations due to hearing impairment. The request has, however, generated interest in evaluating whether a separate written directive is needed to address interactions with individuals who have other specific disabilities where escalation risks are heightened.	Closed
R3	Recommendation was made to review Fremont PD and Washington DC policy as they both have large schools for the deaf.		8/26/2025		Fremont advised that the California School for the Deaf falls under CHP's jurisdiction. CHP does not have specific policies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Gallaudet University is located in Washington, D.C. The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department has a policy from 2013 that is similar to the policy we are updating.	Open
R4						