



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Matter of Public Concern and Public Safety: How Many More Must Be Injured Before Chief Diaz Acts?**

**Houston, TX — August 3, 2025** — As the founder of *We the People Organize*, I am calling on HPD Chief Diaz, Mayor Whitmire, and City Officials to immediately address a growing and alarming public safety concern: the continued use of the SIG Sauer P320 pistol by HPD officers.

This is no longer an isolated issue. Federal agencies have rejected SIG Sauer P320 amid growing safety concerns. The U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command and ICE have both halted the use of P320 following law enforcement agencies across the country, after fatal and serious incidents — including the recent death of a 21-year-old airman and multiple injuries among federal officers. The National Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association declared SIG P320 unsafe for Training/SOFREP. Lawsuits and investigative reports have documented over 100 unintentional discharges of this weapon, many occurring while the gun was holstered and untouched.

Right here in Houston, Officer Richard Fernandez Jr. — a 35-year veteran of HPD — was shot in the foot by his holstered P320 while working traffic control. He never touched the weapon. And he's not alone.

Given this disturbing pattern, we demand clear and immediate answers from HPD Chief Diaz, Mayor Whitmire, and City Officials:

- 1. What happens if the next time this gun discharges, it injures another officer, a family member, a child, an innocent bystander, or a suspect in custody.**
- 2. Has HPD Chief Diaz issued a Department Circular warning to HPD officers about the safety risks associated with this firearm?**
- 3. How many officers are currently carrying the SIG Sauer P320 as their duty weapon?**

**4. And most importantly — will HPD continue to allow the use of this weapon, despite mounting evidence that it poses a danger to both officers and the public?**

Let's be clear: this is not about politics — it's about public safety, transparency, and accountability. We have lost trust in weapons manufacturers to self-regulate. Now we need to know whether our local leaders will step up where the industry refuses.

The silence from HPD Chief Diaz is unacceptable. Houston deserves better. Our officers and our community deserve to be protected from preventable harm.

This is a matter of urgent public concern. We will not wait for another tragedy to force action.

<https://www.thetrace.org/2025/07/sig-sauer-p320-pistol-safety-ice-ban/>

<https://abc13.com/post/houston-police-officer-sues-gunmaker-sig-sauer-pistol-allegedly-fired-trigger-pull/17342430/>

<https://sofrep.com/news/nations-law-enforcement-instructors-declare-sig-p320-unsafe-for-training/>

List of law enforcement agencies that halted the use of SIG Sauer P320:

Milwaukee Police Department: Pulled the P320 due to safety concerns.

Dallas Police Department: Also removed the P320 from service.

SEPTA (Philadelphia): The transit police have also discontinued use of the P320.

Other Agencies: Various agencies across Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin have also removed the P320.

Washington State Police Academy: Banned the P320 for recruits.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office (Florida): Removed the P320 from service.

Montville Police Department (Connecticut): Removed the P320.

Oklahoma CLEET: Banned the P320 from the state academy unless it has a manual safety.

U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command: Followed by the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): Also prohibited officers from carrying the P320.

Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission: Permanently banned the P320 from its training facilities.

San Antonio Police Department: Suspended use of the P320 following the death of an airman.

Tampa Bay Police: Initiated a review of the handgun.

Chicago Police Department: Removed the P320 from its approved handgun list.

Denver Police Department: Removed the P320 from its approved handgun list.

Clark County Sheriff's Office (Washington): Removed the P320 from its approved handgun list.

Pierce County Sheriff's Office (Washington): Removed the P320 from its approved handgun list.

Oklahoma City Police Department: Prohibited the P320 due to concerns about unintentional discharges.

This trend of agencies discontinuing use of the P320 is due to concerns about its potential for accidental discharges, with some agencies citing instances of the gun firing without a trigger pull.

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**We Hold Elected Officials and Police Accountable**

