

File No. 201068

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 112

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: September 22, 2020

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: September 18, 2020

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Urging the Full Pardon of Charles Joseph]

2

3 **Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant**
4 **Charles Joseph a full pardon to allow him to remain in the United States with his family**
5 **and to continue contributing to his community.**

6

7 WHEREAS, The history of the City and County of San Francisco includes welcoming
8 individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds. Immigrants are an
9 integral part of our city and have made enormous positive contributions to San Francisco,
10 where all families are valued; and

11 WHEREAS, Charles Joseph, an immigrant from Fiji who has lived in California lawfully
12 for more than 20 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph entered the United States lawfully with his family in May 2000
14 at the age of fourteen; his father was a leader in Fiji’s Labor Party, and was the target of
15 racialized attacks due to his Indo-Fijian ancestry; Mr. Joseph experienced violence inside and
16 outside the home in Fiji; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph thrived in the United States; he was a strong student, and
18 participated in music, sports and other extra-curricular activities; but at the age of fifteen, his
19 father was arrested on a domestic violence offense, and deported; and

20 WHEREAS, Without his father, Mr. Joseph’s life began to spiral out of control; he was
21 arrested several times, and used alcohol to escape his problems; and

22 WHEREAS, At the age of twenty-two years old, and without his father to help guide
23 him, he robbed a convenience store where he worked; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted by jury for that crime;
25 he was sentenced to 13 years state prison; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite the challenging circumstances, Mr. Joseph began to heal, and
2 engage in self-inquiry that led to a process of true rehabilitation; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph developed his voice, both as a leader and as an artist. He
4 explored his indigenous roots, joined with other indigenous prisoners, and used his learnings
5 and practices to heal; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph would become a leader in many rehabilitative programs in
7 custody. He took an alternative to violence class, which he described as “awakening;” and

8 WHEREAS, He participated in a group therapy class called Personal Transformation in
9 which he unpacked childhood traumas; and

10 WHEREAS, He became a leader in a Restorative Justice class, in which he learned to
11 hold himself accountable for harm; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph also evolved as a musician and dancer. He wrote and
13 performed music about love, anger, loss, and deep pain, under the tutelage of Lacy J. Dalton,
14 a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame. Ms. Dalton describes Mr. Joseph’s music as
15 passionate, exquisite, unifying, and life-changing; he also taught music classes at the prison,
16 and regularly performed the traditional islander haka dance. He contributed to the
17 transformation of many people within prison; and

18 WHEREAS, While incarcerated, Mr. Joseph worked with Special Olympians for two
19 years, helping to raise funds for the group and organizing a performance of the haka dance
20 for a Special Olympics event; he loved this work, took on a leadership role, and formed
21 connections with Olympians, who constantly inspired him; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph served his sentence and was released from prison, but on May
23 19, 2019, instead of being reunited with his family, Mr. Joseph was transferred to ICE custody
24 and was detained at Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center for 11 months; and

25

1 WHEREAS, While in detention and incarceration, Mr. Joseph was a leader in
2 advocating for the rights, health, and safety of incarcerated people, working tirelessly to get
3 them the proper protection and care in light of public health concerns such as Valley Fever
4 and COVID-19; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph was reunited with his family on April 14, 2020, after a federal
6 judge ordered his release from ICE custody because he was at a higher risk of developing
7 serious symptoms if he were to contract the coronavirus; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph has been fighting his immigration case for over a year, and it is
9 now on appeal before the 9th Circuit; he has applied for deferred action under the Convention
10 Against Torture (“CAT”) because he fears he will be tortured if deported to Fiji; and

11 WHEREAS, Since his release, Mr. Joseph has continued to share his experience with
12 law students, graduate students, elected officials and community organizations; Mr. Joseph
13 has also been providing spiritual and biblical reflections to faith communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph is a model father and husband, and his family is central in his
15 life. He has been with his wife, Shelly, since 2005, and they have two daughters, Hope and
16 Carly, and they reside in Sacramento, California; and

17 WHEREAS, News outlets such as KQED, the Sacramento Bee, NBC Bay Area, KALW,
18 and the San Francisco Chronicle have all featured Mr. Joseph and his experiences with the
19 immigration and criminal systems; and

20 WHEREAS, If Mr. Joseph is granted a pardon by Governor Newsom, he will no longer
21 be deportable and will be able to remain with his wife and daughters and contribute his skills
22 and gifts to his Sacramento community; and

23 WHEREAS, The Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and former San
24 Francisco Supervisor David Chiu, supports Mr. Joseph’s pardon application; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The Assistant Majority Leader of the California Legislature, Rob Bonta,
2 Assemblymember for the 18th District, supports Mr. Joseph’s pardon application; and

3 WHEREAS, California State Senator Richard Pan of the 6th Senate District supports
4 Mr. Joseph’s pardon application; and

5 WHEREAS, Faith communities and organizations throughout the Bay Area and the
6 state support Mr. Joseph’s pardon application, including the Interfaith Movement for Human
7 Integrity and the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco houses one of the country’s largest immigration courts for
9 detained immigrants facing deportation; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Defender’s Office houses a deportation defense
11 unit and currently represents Charles in his removal case; and

12 WHEREAS, Following a contested hearing, the San Francisco Immigration Court
13 ordered Charles Joseph deported; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is originally from San Francisco, was Mayor of San
15 Francisco for seven years, and continues to have deep ties to San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, Charles Joseph has been deeply involved in local immigrant rights efforts
17 in San Francisco to fight for state-wide immigration reform, particularly around the issue of
18 transfers from prison to ICE, and the treatment of detainees in ICE detention centers; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph has conducted extensive trainings for the San Francisco
20 Public Defender’s Office on these issues, presented to a masters-level class on migration
21 studies at the University of San Francisco, and has worked closely with the Asian Law
22 Caucus-Advancing Justice on immigrant rights policy and advocacy campaigns; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco opposes the removal of
25 Charles Joseph from the United States; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor
2 Newsom to grant Mr. Joseph a full pardon in order for him to remain lawfully in the United
3 States with his wife, his family, and his community; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor
5 Newsom, other Federal and State Representatives in San Francisco, the San Francisco
6 Immigration Court and Mr. Joseph's counsel for appropriate distribution.

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From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Pardon for Charles Joseph
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:38:02 PM

From: ann lew <annlew2@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:06 PM

To: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; BOS-Administrative Aides <bos-administrative-aides@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Subject: Pardon for Charles Joseph

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Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am a member of Pine United Methodist Church here in the city and am writing in support of Supervisor Preston's resolution to urge Governor Newsom to pardon Charles Joseph. I have become acquainted with Charles and his family through the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. I've seen them participate enthusiastically in meetings, rallies, and vigils not only to advocate on his behalf but on behalf of many others who have served their time but who are in danger of being sent to ICE and possibly deported.

Charles committed his crime as an immigrant youth who was troubled by his father's deportation and who needed positive direction and guidance, not punishment. He served his time honorably, but upon his release, he was transferred to ICE custody. Then due to the covid-19 pandemic, he was released and put under house arrest. However, he is still in danger of deportation.

Today, Charles is a very different person from when he was incarcerated 14 years ago. He has many ties to his community -- not only to his wife, mother, and three daughters, but to many organizations that support him and that have benefited from his talents and leadership. He has brought his gifts of speaking and music to a growing network of supporters and friends to inform them of his Pacific Island culture and the experience of incarceration.

I am confident that he will continue to be a contributing member of society. Deporting him would serve no good purpose; it would only devastate his family and community.

I urge you to stand with justice in the immigrant community and pass the Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph.

Sincerely,

Ann Lew



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Charles Joseph Resolution (Preston)
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:28:47 PM

For file

Alisa Somera

Legislative Deputy Director
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax
alisa.somera@sfgov.org

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**From:** Suzanne Mrlik <zanne\_mrlik@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:48 PM

**To:** BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative\_aides@sfgov.org>; BOS-Administrative Aides <bos-administrative-aides@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

**Cc:** Stephanie Gee <stephanie.m.gee@gmail.com>; Victor Floyd <victorfloyd@calpres.org>

**Subject:** Charles Joseph Resolution (Preston)

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Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Calvary Presbyterian Church declared itself a Sanctuary Church in 2018 to advocate, accompany and stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ caught in the immigration labyrinth. Calvary is a member of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, (“IM4HI”), a California Statewide organization of people of faith and congregations dedicated to faith and social justice. IM4HI represents people of faith in San Francisco, the broader Bay Area, Los Angeles, and the Inland Empire. Since 1994, IM4HI has partnered with faith communities in San Francisco to engage in the Sanctuary movement, to advocate for immigrant justice and the end to mass incarceration, and to support San Francisco’s stance as a Sanctuary City.

Calvary Presbyterian Church’s Living Sanctuary Team is writing to express our support of the Resolution being introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on September 15th, urging Governor Newsom to Pardon Charles Joseph. As a recently-arrived immigrant youth, Charles was impacted by the deportation and loss of his father, embarked down the wrong path, and at the age of 22, he was sentenced to 13 years in prison. After serving 12 years, he earned early release and received parole. Sadly, instead of being released home to his family and his re-entry plan, he was directly transferred to ICE custody and detained unnecessarily for 11 months as he chose to exercise his due process and fight his deportation.

On April 14, 2020, due to the pandemic, a judge ordered Charles to be released from ICE detention and put under house arrest. He was able to reunite with his 3 children, wife, mother and sister in Sacramento. However, he is still at great risk of being deported unless he is granted a pardon from Governor Gavin Newsom. The Calvary Living Sanctuary Team working through IM4HI has gotten to know Charles Joseph for the past year fighting alongside his family to prevent his imminent deportation. He is kind, generous, empathetic, loving and a true leader, qualities that he was able to cultivate and maintain despite spending the past 13 years in prison.

While inside prison and ICE detention, Charles matured and transformed his life. His journey of healing has helped in the rehabilitation of others around him. While he was in immigration detention, Charles helped to report and speak up for persons who were vulnerable to Covid-19 and highlight the poor health practices of the private corporation GEO running the detention center at Mesa Verde. He helped to communicate with prison staff and outside advocates in the desperate cries for soap, PPE, and for the release of those most vulnerable.

Since his release back to his community, Charles has been an outstanding community educator and advocate for those who remain at risk of Covid-19 while in detention. He is a gifted public speaker and musician who has contributed his gifts through numerous webinars, classrooms, worship services and policy briefings. He continues to make numerous positive contributions to his community and society, including working with many organizations and immigrant and faith communities based in San Francisco, including IM4HI. We are confident that he is a vastly different person than he was when he committed his crime over 14 years ago as an

immigrant young adult. We are confident that he is now a contributing member of the community who brings his gifts, skills, testimony and voice to inform others about the Pacific Islander, immigrant and formerly incarcerated experience.

Charles is a loving father to his daughters, loyal husband to his wife Shelly, and a doting son to his mother. He is also a community leader, advocating on behalf of others who have faced similar injustices. I strongly urge you all to sign on as co-sponsors, and to pass this resolution, demonstrating that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with immigrant rights, formerly incarcerated and faith-based communities in urging Governor Newsom to pardon Charles. His family and vast network of friends and supporters are here in the US. Charles is beloved by many. It is unimaginable the heartache and loss that would occur if he were deported. Calvary Presbyterian Church through the IM4HI continues to support him and considers him a beloved member.

We urge you to pass the resolution urging Governor Newsom to pardon Charles Joseph.

With respect,

Rev. Victor H. Floyd, UCC, UFMCC  
*He/Him/His/Y'all*  
Minister of Spiritual Care  
Calvary Presbyterian Church (USA)  
San Francisco  
[CalPres.org](http://CalPres.org)

Stephanie Gee, [stephanie.m.gee@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.m.gee@gmail.com), Suzanne Sande Mrlik,  
[zanne\\_mrlik@yahoo.com](mailto:zanne_mrlik@yahoo.com),  
The Calvary Presbyterian Church Living Sanctuary Team  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
San Francisco

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Charles Joseph resolution (Preston)  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:59:21 PM  
**Importance:** High

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For file

*Alisa Somera*

Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)

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From: Rev. Victor Floyd <VictorFloyd@calpres.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:21 PM

To: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; BOS-Administrative Aides <bos-administrative-aides@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>

Cc: Suzanne Mrlik <zanne_mrlik@yahoo.com>; stephanie.m.gee@gmail.com; Rev. Marci Glass <marciglass@calpres.org>; Rev. Joann Lee <joannlee@calpres.org>

Subject: Charles Joseph resolution (Preston)

Importance: High

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To the SF Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for all you do to make San Francisco a city of compassion.

As a Californian and a religious leader, **I support the resolution introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on September 15th, urging Governor Newsom to pardon Charles Joseph.** The guy has been through enough! Mr. Joseph deserves to live in peace with this family. His children deserve their father and to have a life without fear of losing him to the political whims of ICE. After reading today of what ICE is doing in Georgia—forced immigrant hysterectomies while in ICE detention—I would like to see ICE banned from our state altogether.

Please vote to **restore the family of Charles Joseph.** Thank you.

Peace,

Victor

Rev. Victor H. Floyd, UCC, UFMCC

He/Him/His/Y'all

Minister of Spiritual Care

Calvary Presbyterian Church (USA)

San Francisco

CalPres.org

(415) 346-3832 ext. 417

My days off are Friday & Saturday.

"What is praised is One, so the praise is one, too. Many jugs being poured into one huge basin. All religions, all this singing, one song." —Coleman Barks

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From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Support Letter for SF Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 1:53:09 PM
Attachments: [2020.09.15 SF BOS support letter for Charles Joseph.pdf](#)

For file

Alisa Somera

Legislative Deputy Director
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax
alisa.somera@sfgov.org

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**From:** Galatea King <gking@im4humanintegrity.org>

**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 12:30 PM

**To:** BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative\_aides@sfgov.org>; BOS-Administrative Aides <bos-administrative-aides@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>;

Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Deborah Lee  
<dlee@im4humanintegrity.org>

**Cc:** Deborah Lee <dlee@im4humanintegrity.org>

**Subject:** Support Letter for SF Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph

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Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Please receive this attached letter of support from the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity for the Resolution introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston “Urging Governor Newsom to Pardon Charles Joseph.”

Thank you for your consideration in passing this important resolution!

~~~~~

Gala King || she/her/hers
Regional Organizer, Northern California
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
310 8th St. Suite 310
Oakland, CA 94607
510.759.4196
gking@im4humanintegrity.org
www.im4humanintegrity.org



Sept 14, 2020

Re: Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

My name is Rev. Deborah Lee, Executive Director of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, a California Statewide organization of people of faith and congregations dedicated to faith and social justice. The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity represents people of faith in San Francisco, the broader Bay Area, Los Angeles, and the Inland Empire. Since 1994, we have partnered with faith communities in San Francisco to engage in the Sanctuary movement and to support San Francisco's stance as a Sanctuary City. For the past 10 years, we continued to advance racial equity and human rights in two program areas: immigrant justice and ending mass criminalization.

I am writing to express our support of the Resolution being introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on September 15th, Urging Governor Newsom to Pardon Charles Joseph.

As a recently-arrived immigrant youth, Charles was impacted by the deportation and loss of his father, embarked down the wrong path, and at the age of 22, he was sentenced to 13 years in prison. After serving 12 years, he earned early release and received parole. But instead of being released home to his family and his re-entry plan, he was directly transferred to ICE custody and detained unnecessarily for 11 months as he chose to exercise his due process and fight his deportation. On April 14, 2020, due to the pandemic, a judge ordered Charles to be released from ICE detention and put under house arrest, and he was able to reunite with his 3 children, , mother and sister in Sacramento. To this day, however, he is still at great risk of being deported unless he is granted a pardon from Governor Gavin Newsom.

I have had the great pleasure of knowing Charles Joseph for the past year as our organization worked alongside his family to prevent his imminent deportation. I have been struck by his kindness, generosity, empathy, love and leadership, qualities that he was able to cultivate and maintain despite



spending the past 13 years in a cage. While inside prison and ICE detention, Charles matured and transformed his life. His journey of healing has helped in the rehabilitation of others around him as well. While he was in immigration detention, Charles helped to report and speak up for persons who were vulnerable to Covid-19 and the poor health practices of the private corporation GEO running the detention center at Mesa Verde. He helped to communicate with prison staff and outside advocates the desperate cries for soap, PPE and release for those most vulnerable. Since his release back to his community, Charles has been an outstanding community educator and advocate for those who remain at risk of Covid-19 while in detention. He is a gifted public speaker and musician who has contributed his gifts through numerous webinars, classrooms, worship services and policy briefings. He continues to make numerous positive contributions to his community and society, including working with many organizations and immigrant and faith communities based in San Francisco, including ours.

I am confident that he is a vastly different person than he was when he committed his crime over 14 years ago as an immigrant young adult who needed help and culturally-competent direction, not punishment. I am confident that he is now a contributing member of the community who brings his gifts, skills, testimony and voice to inform others about the Pacific Islander, immigrant and formerly incarcerated experience. Charles is a loving father to his daughters, loyal husband to his wife Shelly, and a doting son to his mother. He is also a community leader, advocating on behalf of others who have faced similar injustices.

I strongly urge you all to sign on as co-sponsors, and to pass this resolution, demonstrating that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with the immigrant rights, formerly incarcerated and faith-based communities in urging Governor Newsom to pardon Charles. His family and vast network of friends and supporters are here in the US. Charles is beloved to many. It is unimaginable the heartache and loss that would occur if he were deported. Our continues to support him and consider him a beloved member. We thank you for your support in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rev. Deborah Lee
Executive Director
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
310 8th St. #310, Oakland CA 94607

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Support Letter - Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 11:11:30 AM
Attachments: [AAAJ_ALC_Letter_in_Support_of_Resolution_for_Charles_Joseph.pdf](#)

Alisa Somera

Legislative Deputy Director
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax
alisa.somera@sfgov.org

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services.

Click [HERE](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation, and archived matters since August 1998.

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**From:** Angela Chan <angelac@advancingjustice-alc.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:00 AM

**To:** BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative\_aides@sfgov.org>; BOS-Administrative Aides <bos-administrative-aides@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>;

Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

**Subject:** Support Letter - Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Asian Law Caucus, please find the attached letter in strong support of the Resolution being introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on September 15th, "Urging Governor Newsom to Pardon Charles Joseph." Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Angela

Angela Chan

Policy Director and Senior Staff Attorney, Criminal Justice Reform Program

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus

Direct Tel: (415) 848-7719

Email: [angelac@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:angelac@advancingjustice-alc.org)

Website: [www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)



Sept 12, 2020

**Re: SUPPORT - Resolution to Support the Pardon of Charles Joseph**

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, I am writing to express our strong support of the Resolution being introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on September 15th, “Urging Governor Newsom to Pardon Charles Joseph.”

Founded in 1972, the mission of Advancing Justice-ALC is to promote, advance, and represent the legal and civil rights of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities continue to exist in the United States, Advancing Justice-ALC is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of our society, with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income, immigrant and underserved APIs.

Charles Joseph was born in Fiji, and came to the U.S. with his family at the age of 14 as a lawful permanent resident. Charles and his father were inseparable and had a close relationship. Not too long after Charles’ family settled in San Bruno in San Mateo County, Charles’ father was deported. Without his father at home, Charles and his family suffered. Charles’ mother was stretched thin - caring for Charles and his siblings while maintaining a full-time job.

In 2003, Charles’ family moved to Sacramento where Charles attended Sacramento City College, majoring in music and business. In 2007, Charles was working at an east Sacramento convenience store. While at work one day, he encountered people experiencing homelessness who asked him for help. In response, Charles gave them donuts that his employer intended to be thrown away at the end of the day. He was fired from his job at the store for giving the food away. Frustrated and disillusioned by this experience, and with no coping mechanism, he succumbed to the influence of drugs and alcohol. He went to the store, brandishing a weapon, took money from the cash register, and walked out. No one was hurt. At age 22, the father of three was arrested and eventually convicted of second-degree armed robbery. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

In prison, Charles focused on turning his life around. He became actively involved in violence prevention programs, while developing his exceptional art and musical talents. He became a violence prevention leader, and was elected by his peers as a representative on the Men’s Advisory Council, where he negotiated grievances and prevented violence. According to

correctional staff, Charles regularly shared his skills in classes by leading discussions, demonstrating humility and self-awareness about his own process of rehabilitation, and held each person accountable in their growth as men, husbands, and fathers. He raised money for and worked with Special Olympians, and composed original music for a performance of Shakespeare's "Pericles."

After serving 12 years, he earned early release and was found eligible for parole. But instead of being released home to his family, CDCR directly transferred Charles to ICE custody and detained for almost a year. On April 14, 2020, due to the pandemic, Charles was finally released from ICE detention and reunited with his family in Sacramento. However, he is still at great risk of being deported unless he is granted a pardon from Governor Gavin Newsom.

I first came to know Charles Joseph's story from advocating with his mother and wife in the halls of Sacramento to seek his release and to support immigrant rights legislation. I was inspired by the dedication and support of his family. While in immigration detention during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Charles pulled off an impressive feat of organizing other detained immigrants to make a video that shared their experiences being locked up under horrendous and inhumane conditions. After Charles was finally released from immigration detention in the middle of the pandemic, I have witnessed Charles advocating tirelessly for the release of other immigrants from immigration detention and prison. I also have known Charles to be a loving father to his daughters, caring husband to his wife Shelly, and a supportive son to his mother. He is also a community leader, advocating on behalf of others who have faced similar injustices.

I strongly urge you all to sign on as co-sponsors, and to pass this resolution, demonstrating that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands with the immigrant rights community and faith-based community in urging Governor Newsom to pardon Charles. His family and vast network of friends and supporters are here in California. Charles is beloved to many. It is unimaginable the heartache and loss that would occur if he were deported.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 415.848.7719 or [angelac@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:angelac@advancingjustice-alc.org).

Sincerely,



Angela Chan  
Policy Director & Senior Staff Attorney



# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: