

From: [Joseph Bear](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#); [Cabrillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Budget & Finance Committee - Items #1 & #2
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:33:49 PM

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

Dear Chair Fewer and Supervisors,

My name is Joseph Bear and I work at Transgender Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project or TGJIP. TGJIP is strongly opposed to electronic monitoring in all forms. We are urging you to recommend against approving the current rules and regulations of the city's electronic monitoring program — and we are asking that you incorporate immediate harm reduction measures while working to oppose electronic monitoring on all fronts.

The communities that TGJIP serves, particularly the Black trans community, are especially harmed by all forms of incarceration and policing, including EM. The rules imposed for EM make it impossible for members of our communities to carry on their lives, including making it difficult or impossible for them to access basic necessities like food and medical care, and it makes imprisonment and reincarceration far too likely. Because we know that Black TGI people are far disproportionately targeted by the carceral state, EM and the rules imposed present another form of marginalization, criminalization, and incarceration. Rather than using EM, the city should decriminalize quality of life crimes that disproportionately target the communities that TGJIP serves and put funds used for EM toward support for those communities.

On Tuesday, November 3, San Francisco and California voters sent a clear message — they demanded ambitious solutions to address California's excessive reliance on criminalization, incarceration, policing, and surveillance. We cannot continue to allow for electronic monitoring and carceral surveillance to extend beyond the jail's walls and into our communities and homes.

San Francisco's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, costly, and counterproductive. For these reasons and more, please do not move forward with approval of the rules and regulations until more information is shared with the public. Instead, please work to implement the harm reduction recommendations for electronic monitoring as outlined by the No New SF Jail Coalition in [this document](#).

Sincerely,

Joseph Bear

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Joseph Bear
Pronouns: He/him
Legal Assistant
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TGI Justice Project

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Make it happen, Mama! Consider donating as we celebrate **15 years** of Black trans freedom fighting! <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/TGIJP>

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From: [Melissa H](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [FewerStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Today's Budget & Finance Agenda Items #1 & #2 - File Nos. 200876, 201198
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 9:56:32 AM

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

Good afternoon, supervisors. My name is Melissa Hernandez, and I'm writing on behalf of the San Francisco Volunteer Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California. Our chapter is a proud member of the No New SF Jail Coalition. I'm here today to urge you to keep shining a light on the use of electronic monitoring in our city. After weeks of discussions, the public still has very little clarity about who is being placed on electronic monitoring, why they are being placed on it instead of less restrictive alternatives, or what types of violations are landing people back in jail. And what we do know about electronic monitoring in San Francisco is alarming-- just like incarceration in our city, almost half of people on electronic monitoring are Black, a chilling statistic for a city whose Black population makes up less than 5%. What you are doing today is a step in the right direction, and I want to thank you for taking this topic seriously.

I understand that you each received a letter recently from Kate Weisburd of George Washington University in which she detailed the various civil rights issues at stake when people are subjected to electronic monitoring. The ACLU San Francisco Volunteer Chapter wholeheartedly endorses the letter and echoes Ms. Weisburd's concerns, especially as they pertain to the pretrial use of electronic monitoring. The city has a duty to protect San Franciscans' Fourth Amendment rights. It can do so by eliminating unwarranted searches and seizures to the extent possible. The city can also ensure that location data is not shared or kept unnecessarily. Finally, the city can help move progress forward by providing for the collection and regular release of data about how electronic monitoring is used in San Francisco, including who is being placed on it, why, and how often people are being re-incarcerated as a result of violations of the sheriff's electronic monitoring rules.

However, the use of electronic monitoring is troubling for reasons other than privacy and civil liberties. There is no significant evidence that electronic monitoring gets people to court and it is extremely intrusive on people's ability to go about their lives. Accordingly, we echo the calls from our fellow coalition members to reduce and work toward elimination of electronic monitoring in favor of programs that strengthen community ties, do not further perpetuate the surveillance of communities of color, especially Black people, and prioritizes life-affirming, community-centered services.

Sincerely,
Melissa G. Hernandez
she/her
Volunteer
San Francisco Chapter
ACLU of Northern California

From: [Sarah Rosedale](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Budget & Finance Committee - Items #1 & #2
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 9:59:02 AM

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

Dear Chair Fewer and Supervisors,

My name is Sarah Rosedale. I live in Bernal Heights and I am with the SF Chapter of the ACLU as well as a volunteer with No New Jails SF. I am strongly opposed to the use of electronic monitoring. I urge you to recommend against approving the current rules and regulations of the city's electronic monitoring program and instead incorporate immediate harm reduction measures while working to oppose electronic monitoring on all fronts.

In my volunteer work with No New Jails SF I have been able to study just how EM works, and how it will only serve to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and crime. It is a sophisticated and harder to see continuation of mass incarceration in this country. It is not a solution, but a new development in the prison industrial complex.

On Tuesday, November 3, San Francisco and California voters sent a clear message — they demanded ambitious solutions to address California's excessive reliance on criminalization, incarceration, policing, and surveillance. We cannot continue to allow for electronic monitoring and carceral surveillance to extend beyond the jail's walls and into our communities and homes.

San Francisco's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, costly, and counterproductive. For these reasons and more, please do not move forward with approval of the rules and regulations until more information is shared with the public. Instead, please work to implement the harm reduction recommendations for electronic monitoring as outlined by the No New SF Jail Coalition in [this document](#).

Sincerely,
Sarah Rosedale

From: [Samantha Lew](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Budget & Finance Committee - Items #1 & #2
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 5:55:36 PM

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Dear Chair Fewer and Supervisors,

My name is Sam Lew, I grew up in San Francisco and I live in the Richmond District. I am strongly opposed to the use of electronic monitoring. I urge you to recommend against approving the current rules and regulations of the city's electronic monitoring program and instead incorporate immediate harm reduction measures while working to oppose electronic monitoring on all fronts.

Electronic monitoring (EM) is NOT an alternative to incarceration, it is *another form of incarceration*. It is a [punitive sanction](#) that fails to provide the services, support, and opportunities that people need.

Instead of electronic monitoring, we need to explore all possibilities of release and consider electronic monitoring ONLY as a last resort. Recognize EM as the most restrictive form of supervision, short of jail. San Francisco should be e-carcerating the fewest number of people possible. Expand eligibility of Own Recognizance release (pretrial release with written commitment to show up to court hearings). We also need to invest in community support programs that support pretrial diversion, or make OR more accessible.

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Sincerely,

Sam Lew

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Sam Lew | she/her