

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

May 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Madam Speaker:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 106-20 (Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy), which was enacted on March 20, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention and requests you to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of the Resolution:

- One certified copy of Resolution No. 106-20 (File No. 200247)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: [board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org).

Sincerely,

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

- c. Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Gordon Mar, Dean Preston, Matt Haney, Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, Sandra Lee Fewer, Rafael Mandelman  
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors  
Eddie McCaffrey, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs  
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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106 -20

Dear Senator Feinstein:

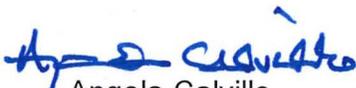
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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Senator Harris:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 106-20 (Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy), which was enacted on March 20, 2020.

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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
United States House of Representatives  
2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

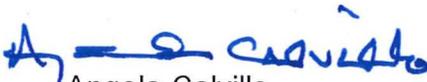
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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
1303-10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Governor Newsom:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 106-20 (Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy), which was enacted on March 20, 2020.

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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
California State Senator  
California State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Senator Wiener:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 106-20 (Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy), which was enacted on March 20, 2020.

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May 22, 2020

The Honorable David Chiu  
California State Assembly Member  
California State Capitol, Room 4112  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

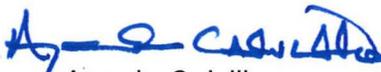
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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Phil Ting  
California State Assembly Member  
California State Capitol, Room 6026  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 106-20

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 106-20 (Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy), which was enacted on March 20, 2020.

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City and County of San Francisco

Certified Copy

Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

200247 [ Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy ]

**Sponsors:** Mar; Preston, Haney, Walton, Ronen, Fewer and Mandelman

Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States.

3/10/2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Mandelman, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

Absent: 3 - Fewer, Haney and Peskin

3/20/2020 Mayor - RETURNED UNSIGNED

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a full, true, and correct copy of the original thereof on file in this office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City and County of San Francisco.

May 22, 2020

Date

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

1 [Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy]

2  
3 **Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant**  
4 **Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them**  
5 **to remain in the United States.**  
6

7 WHEREAS, The American War in Southeast Asia (Vietnam War/Secret War) resulted  
8 in refugee resettlement to the United States of people from Laos, including people from the  
9 Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lu-Mien, Khmu and other ethnic minority groups; and

10 WHEREAS, Many of the same refugees have been served deportation orders, some  
11 who have no family ties, do not speak the language, or have never lived in Laos; and if  
12 deported would face marginalization, violence, or death; and

13 WHEREAS, Sakhone Lasaphangthong was born in war-torn Laos, was separated from  
14 four out of his nine siblings at the age of 5, and lived at a refugee camp in Thailand for two  
15 years before arriving in the United States to California; and

16 WHEREAS, Lasaphangthong experienced the trauma of war in Laos, grew up when  
17 "tough-on-crime" policies criminalized communities of color resulting in mass incarceration  
18 and children serving life sentences, and wound up in the criminal justice system at age 22 for  
19 second degree murder; and

20 WHEREAS, While incarcerated for 20 years of a 30-year sentence before being  
21 granted parole, Lasaphangthong transformed his life, devoting his time to education, attaining  
22 three associate degrees in social and behavioral science, general business, and American  
23 studies; leveraging his status among other prisoners to convince them to join the college  
24 program, increasing the attendance from 4 to 300; and  
25

1           WHEREAS, Following his release, Lasaphangthong made numerous positive  
2 contributions to his community and society, moving to San Francisco, working as an  
3 Ambassador for Asian Prisoner Support Committee and Housing Manager for Family Bridges,  
4 cleaning streets in Oakland Chinatown and connecting homeless individuals with resources,  
5 and spearheading a campaign to successfully move 38 individuals from the streets into the  
6 Oak Street Community Cabins; and

7           WHEREAS, Lasaphangthong is facing imminent deportation to Laos, away from his  
8 home in the United States to a country he fled as a small child; and

9           WHEREAS, Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after  
10 his family fled the war in Laos and later resettled in Stockton California; and

11           WHEREAS, Thongsy experienced the traumas of war in Laos, the violent death of his  
12 brother, growing up in an impoverished neighborhood, and wound up incarcerated as a minor  
13 at the age of 17 for second degree murder; and

14           WHEREAS, While incarcerated for more than 20 years, Thongsy transformed his life,  
15 incurring no disciplinary record throughout prison, graduating with a high school and college  
16 degree, joining and facilitating numerous self-help programs, mentoring others to make  
17 positive choices, finding spirituality and becoming active in chapel programs and religious  
18 studies, advocating with Kids Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT), helping pass  
19 California's Senate Bill (SB) 260 and SB261 Fair Sentencing for Youth, to give youth impacted  
20 by the criminal justice system a fair chance of parole; and

21           WHEREAS, Following his release, Thongsy made numerous positive contributions to  
22 his community and society, beginning a fellowship at Asian Americans Advancing Justice –  
23 Asian Law Caucus (AAJC-ALC) as a Yuri Kochiyama Fellow, engaging in community  
24 outreach as a member of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, being active in his church  
25 community and interfaith organizations, volunteering extensively in the Bay Area helping with

1 re-entry support and teaching origami to youth, attending leadership workshops and  
2 conferences, and promoting community justice and safety as a Campaigner/Coordinator at  
3 the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County; and

4 WHEREAS, Thongsy is facing imminent deportation to Laos, a country he has never  
5 set foot in because of his immigration status, and the United States is the only country he has  
6 known given that he arrived here as a refugee when he was 2 years old; and

7 WHEREAS, Pardon is one of the only ways to prevent deportation, and would give  
8 Lasaphangthong and Thongsy the chance to remain in the United States and remain as  
9 contributing members of society; and

10 WHEREAS, On April 2, 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously  
11 passed File No. 190320, which is a resolution respectfully urging the Trump Administration to  
12 stop the massive deportation of rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian nationals;  
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports an immigration  
15 system that keeps families together and does not determine a person's value by their  
16 immigration status or whether they have been incarcerated; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns the  
18 deportation of Southeast Asian refugees in the United States, especially ethnic minorities, and  
19 does not support the removal of Lasaphangthong and Thongsy from the U.S.; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests that  
21 Governor Gavin Newsom pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy  
22 so they can remain in their homes in the United States and continue to improve our  
23 community; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
25 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Federal and State Representatives in San

1 Francisco with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this  
2 Resolution.

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City and County of San Francisco

Tails  
Resolution

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 200247

Date Passed: March 10, 2020

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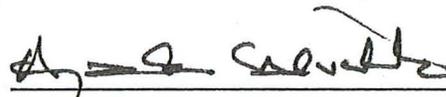
March 10, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Mandelman, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

Absent: 3 - Fewer, Haney and Peskin

File No. 200247

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/10/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

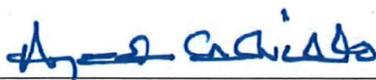
UNSIGNED

3/20/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

3/20/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date