

1 [Accept and Expend Grant - Retroactive - Crankstart Foundation - San Francisco Public
2 Defender's Pretrial Release Unit - \$150,000]

3 **Resolution retroactively authorizing the San Francisco Public Defender's Office to**
4 **accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Crankstart Foundation to**
5 **provide representation in Pretrial Release and Pre-Arraignment proceedings ensuring**
6 **the rights of vulnerable detained people accused of crimes through Public Defender**
7 **Pretrial Legal Representation for the period of January 1, 2024, through September 30,**
8 **2024.**

9
10 WHEREAS, The Administrative Code requires City departments to obtain Board of
11 Supervisors' approval to accept or expend any grant funds (Section 10.170 et seq.); and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Defender's Office has been awarded
13 unrestricted funding by the Crankstart Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 and would like to
14 use this grant towards strengthening its Pretrial Release Unit (PRU); and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Defender's Office is steadfastly committed to its
16 mission of fiercely defending its indigent clients at the highest level, confronting state-
17 sponsored violence, and advocating for community power, providing zealous, compassionate,
18 and family-centered legal representation to indigent adults and youth charged with crimes,
19 who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); and

20 WHEREAS, Indigent people who have been arrested and booked into jail are often in
21 crisis and need immediate assistance in connecting to services in the community to initiate or
22 maintain substance use or mental health treatment and often need assistance for their
23 children who may be impacted by parents who are incarcerated; and

24 WHEREAS, The Public Defender's Pretrial Release Unit provides this assistance,
25 which includes holistic, trauma-informed services, which is critical to ensure that they are

1 released with the information and resources they need to return to court if charged, obtain
2 critical services, and/or stay out of the justice system; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to meeting The Public Defender's Office's constitutional
4 mandate, The Public Defender's PRU is uniquely positioned to partner with communities to
5 end the cycle of criminalization, particularly during the critical pre-arraignment period, so that
6 specialized legal advocates can provide the necessary holistic, trauma-informed
7 programmatic response to indigent clients; and

8 WHEREAS, Pre-arraignment representation increases the likelihood of release at
9 arraignment by providing attorneys the time needed to compile a robust case for release,
10 which includes contacting family and community members and keeping them informed of case
11 developments, verifying housing, employment, and community ties, and even ensuring clients
12 have uninterrupted access to their medications; and

13 WHEREAS, Beyond avoiding the harmful collateral consequences mentioned above,
14 the downstream impacts of pretrial detention cannot be overestimated, as individuals who are
15 incarcerated pre-trial plead guilty at higher rates, are more likely to be convicted, face longer
16 sentences, and are more likely to be re-arrested than similarly situated individuals who litigate
17 their cases out of custody; and

18 WHEREAS, Pre-arraignment representation is one important tool to minimize these
19 inequities, and a 2018 study by the University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of
20 Public Policy revealed the PRU's profound human and cost-savings impact, and that
21 arrestees seen by a member of the PRU were twice as likely - from 14% to 28% - to be
22 released at arraignment, and that pre-arraignment representation may have positive long-term
23 impacts on criminal case outcomes and help to maintain stability during incarceration; and

24 WHEREAS, The grant allocation will help provide adequate staffing to the unit by
25 shifting one existing part-time attorney into a full-time attorney role; and

1 WHEREAS, Any interest earned on the grant funds must go to the funded activities;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Defender's Office proposes to maximize use of
4 available grant funds on program expenditures by not including indirect costs in the grant
5 budget; and

6 WHEREAS, The grant does not require an amendment to the Annual Salary
7 Ordinance; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the San
9 Francisco Public Defender's Office to retroactively accept and expend \$150,000 in grant funds
10 from the Crankstart Foundation; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby waives
12 inclusion of indirect costs in the grant budget; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Public Defender's Office is authorized
14 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to sign the Grant Agreement with Crankstart
15 Foundation, including any extensions or amendments thereof; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Public Defender's Office agrees to
17 abide by the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement as set forth by Crankstart
18 Foundation.

1 Recommended: Approved: _____ /s/ _____
2 London N. Breed
3 Mayor
4 _____ /s/ _____
5 Manohar Raju Approved: _____ /s/ _____
6 Public Defender Greg Wagner
7 Controller
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