

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Support Letter -- File No. 220830 Resolution Supporting SFDA Innocence Commission
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:26:08 PM
Attachments: [2022-07-19 USF SOL DEAN SUPPORT File No 220830.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.

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**From:** Charlie Nelson Keever <cnelsonkeever@usfca.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:21 PM

**To:** Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Dorsey, Matt (BOS) <matt.dorsey@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

**Cc:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS)

<alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Susan Freiwald <freiwald@usfca.edu>; Lara Bazelon <lbazelon@usfca.edu>

**Subject:** Support Letter -- File No. 220830 Resolution Supporting SFDA Innocence Commission

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Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Dean Susan Freiwald of the USF School of Law, I am forwarding the attached letter in support of Resolution File No. 220830 to preserve the SFDA's Innocence Commission.

Thank you,  
Charlie Nelson Keever

--

**Charlie Nelson Keever** (she/her/hers)  
Staff Attorney  
Innocence Commission | Racial Justice Clinic  
University of San Francisco School of Law  
o. 415.422.7678 c. 310.738.9663

July 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Email: [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)

[VIA EMAIL]

**RE: File No. 220830 (Preston, Ronen, Walton, & Mar) SUPPORT**

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

As the Dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law, I am writing to express my strong support of Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission. This resolution urges the interim District Attorney to keep the Innocence Commission intact and to allow the SFDA's Post Conviction Unit to continue its related wrongful conviction and resentencing work.

Wrongful convictions are a significant problem in the United States—and California is no exception. Since the National Registry of Exonerations began tracking wrongful convictions in 1989, there have been more than 279 known wrongful convictions in California – causing innocent Californians to lose a total of 2,173 years of their lives, and costing California taxpayers over \$221 million (according to a 2016 study). These wrongful convictions occurred as the real perpetrators of crime avoided consequences for their actions and victims were denied justice. Wrongful convictions undermine our criminal legal system and violate fundamental principles of justice and due process.

USF School of Law has been honored to support the Innocence Commission's work through the District Attorney's partnership with the Racial Justice Clinic and Professor Bazelon. The work of undoing wrongful convictions is deeply aligned with the Racial Justice Clinic's mission to serve clients who have been affected by racial discrimination. Wrongful convictions harm communities of color and the Black community in particular. According to the National Registry of Exonerations, Black people constitute approximately 13% of the American population, but represent 49% of the exonerations in the United States. The NRE's 2017 report revealed that Black people are seven times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of murder, and twelve times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of drug possession than white people.

The Innocence Commission model is a first-in-the-nation approach to efficiently and fairly investigating potential wrongful conviction cases and is a cost-effective way to effectuate the district attorneys' duty to prevent and rectify the conviction of innocent persons. The Commission is tasked with evaluating cases where an incarcerated person alleges that they have been wrongfully convicted—either because they can establish that they are factually innocent, or because a due process violation renders their incarceration unconstitutional. If the Commission, after evaluating all of the available evidence and conducting any necessary re-investigation, votes by a majority to vacate the conviction, the Commission prepares a findings of fact and conclusions of law memorandum that serves as the basis to seek to vacate the conviction or provide other relief. Although the district attorney retains the final decision-making power on each case, they afford great weight to the determination of the Commission.

The members of the Innocence Commission—Judge LaDoris Cordell (Ret.), Deputy Public Defender Jacque Wilson, Dr. Michael Meade, and Professor Lara Bazelon (Chair)—represent key perspectives in the criminal legal system, and bring to their work a diversity of professional experience as well as diversity across race, ethnicity, and gender. The makeup of the Commission and the collective experience of its current members has been a key part of its success.

The Commission's structure is designed to address the main challenges that prevent so many Conviction Integrity Units from fairly and efficiently reviewing alleged wrongful conviction cases. For instance, the assistant DAs assigned to typical CIUs must often undertake the unenviable task of evaluating and passing judgment on the work of colleagues and predecessors in their own offices as well as the police, with whom they must work every day. The Commission's independence from the DA's office and the composition of its membership are key features that alleviate this common problem. This feature, like the Innocence Commission's other practices and policies, is based on best practices gleaned from the innocence community, including Innocence Project co-founder Barry Scheck, and the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice. As a result, the Commission has been able to conduct collaborative investigations that are both efficient and thorough.

The Innocence Commission has established that it is effective. In April of this year, the work of the Innocence Commission led to the exoneration of Joaquin Ciria who spent 32 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. His was the first collaborative exoneration in San Francisco history. I am so proud that USF students in the Racial Justice Clinic had the opportunity to support the work of the Innocence Commission and to see real justice in action.

As Mr. Ciria reminded us at an event celebrating his exoneration, there are others still wrongfully incarcerated who are seeking justice. The work of the Innocence Commission must be allowed to continue. I urge you to support Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission.

Sincerely,



**Susan Freiwald**  
Dean and Professor of Law  
USF School of Law

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support for Resolution to Protect the Innocence Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 9:59:05 AM

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Looping in Legislation.

Apologies all for accidentally dropping you off!

Eileen

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 9:56 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors <[bos-supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-supervisors@sfgov.org)>; BOS-Legislative Aides <[bos-legislative\\_aides@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <[angela.calvillo@sfgov.org](mailto:angela.calvillo@sfgov.org)>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>; Ng, Wilson (BOS) <[wilson.l.ng@sfgov.org](mailto:wilson.l.ng@sfgov.org)>; De Asis, Edward (BOS) <[edward.deasis@sfgov.org](mailto:edward.deasis@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Resolution to Protect the Innocence Commission

Dear Supervisors,

Please see the attached communication regarding File No. 220830, which is item number 68 on today's agenda.

File No. 220830 - Urging Support for the District Attorney's Innocence Commission

Thank you,

Eileen McHugh  
Executive Assistant  
Office of the Clerk of the Board  
Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Phone: (415) 554-5184 | Fax: (415) 554-5163  
[eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org](mailto:eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org) | [www.sfbos.org](http://www.sfbos.org)

---

**From:** Harris, Danielle (PDR) <[danielle.harris@sfgov.org](mailto:danielle.harris@sfgov.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2022 7:08 PM  
**To:** BOS-Legislative Aides <[bos-legislative\\_aides@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org)>; BOS-Supervisors <[bos-supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Goossen, Carolyn (PDR) <[carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org](mailto:carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for Resolution to Protect the Innocence Commission

Hi there,

Attached please find my letter in support of this important body.

Best,  
Danielle

*Danielle Harris | Managing Attorney | The Freedom Project | San Francisco Public Defender |  
415.553.9344*

**From:** [Mary](#)  
**To:** [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [hilary.ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:hilary.ronen@sfgov.org); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar. Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [angela.cavillo@sfgov.org](mailto:angela.cavillo@sfgov.org); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Save The Innocence Commission  
**Date:** Sunday, July 17, 2022 5:40:00 PM

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 282  
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
<[Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)>

July 17, 2022

Dear Supervisors:

**Please vote in favor of Board Resolution 220-830..**

The Innocence Commission is made up of dedicated attorneys and investigators including many who work pro bono tirelessly to assist innocent people incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. It is a tragedy that can happen to anyone, and particularly impacts people who are poor and people of color.

Wrongful convictions are traumatic, denying innocent people their basic human liberties and robbing them of years of their lives away from their homes and families. The victims of crime are denied true justice and the actual perpetrator is not held accountable.

It was extremely concerning to me that the recently appointed DA Brooke Jenkins first fire was an attorney from the Innocence Commission. She has basically disbanded the commission started under DA Chesa Boudin. It needs to continue as an independent entity free from politics.

Thank you.

Maria Bugarin

338 Lombard Street, SF CA 94133



**From:** [Marc Bruno](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Marc Bruno](#)  
**Subject:** Please Save the SF DA "Innocence Commission"  
**Date:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 7:58:50 PM

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## **Please Save the SF DA "Innocence Commission"**

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 282  
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
<[Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)>

July 16, 2022

Dear Supervisors:

**Please vote in favor of Board Resolution 220-830**, introduced on behalf of San Francisco voters by Supervisors Preston and Ronen. This resolution asks new San Francisco District Attorney Jenkins to continue the work of District Attorney Chesa Boudin's Post-Conviction Unit and Innocence Commission, the purposes of which every San Francisco would agree and fully support.

District Attorney Boudin promised that his prosecutorial office would do its utmost *to guarantee no innocent person shall be convicted by juries or judges*. Knowing full well that "to err is human," Chesa's commitment to a post-trial process makes perfect sense. In those instances when mistakes are made, we must have the courage to review these cases and correct them.

As a former legal intern in the homicide unit of the District Attorney, I strongly believe that every single person who works for and with the D.A. could think of nothing worse in their careers than helping to convict an innocent person. Let's re-commit ourselves as a city with more vigor than ever to the fair, equitable and truthful outcomes in the criminal courts.

Finally, I want to note one particular volunteer on the Innocence Commission, and what this says about its integrity: LaDoris Cordell. Judge Cordell is a national voice for judicial transparency and fairness. All of us who follow and care about the legal process know her writings, her decisions and her history as one of the first African American women on the bench in California. Her involvement in the Innocence Commission says much about its importance to our community.

Sincerely,

Marc Bruno  
15 Nobles Alley

San Francisco CA 94133

**From:** [patricia](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Innocence Commission  
**Date:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 2:15:29 PM

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Board of Supervisors:

In 2020, after working as a private criminal defense investigator for 30 years, I was energized by our new DA, Chesa Boudin, and his fresh, reformative and holistic approach to criminal justice. So I approached his office to offer my services.

I've been honored to work as an investigator with the Innocence Commission, and to play a role in helping examine cases where there is evidence of innocence. It is a meticulous and exhaustive process to *prove* innocence. Indeed, the Commissioners, the staff attorney, and the DA's point person – Arcelia Hurtado – have worked tirelessly towards that end.

The Innocence Commission is a collaboration between criminal justice professionals from diverse and often adversarial backgrounds, with a common goal that aims purely for justice. I strongly urge you, and the Board of Supervisors in its most influential capacity to support this program -- and most importantly, to support its expert participants who are committed to true criminal justice.

Patricia de Larios

San Francisco

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de Larios Peyton Investigations  
PO Box 330291  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
510-915-4358

**From:** [JoAnn McManus](#)  
**To:** [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Innocence Commision  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 8:04:05 PM

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PLEASE support the Resolution & Commission & its work to date. Keep the Innocence Commission intact!!!  
Thank you

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Stefanie Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** File No. 220830 - letter of support  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 5:07:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [7.18.22 Support letter-San Fran BoS Resolution 220830.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached is a letter of support for resolution File No. 220830, that will be put to a vote at the Board of Supervisors meeting this Tuesday 7/19.

Thank you,

--

**Stefanie Anderson**

Accuracy & Justice Program Manager

Witness to Innocence

1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102

C: 206-713-5685

[www.witnesstoinnocence.org](http://www.witnesstoinnocence.org)

# WITNESS TO INNOCENCE

July 18, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Email: [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)

**[VIA EMAIL]**

RE: File No. 220830 (Preston & Ronen) SUPPORT

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Members of Witness to Innocence, I am writing to express our strong support of Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission. This resolution urges the interim District Attorney to keep the Innocence Commission intact and to allow the SFDA's Post Conviction Unit to continue its related wrongful conviction and resentencing work.

Wrongful convictions are a significant problem in the United States—and California is no exception. Since the National Registry of Exonerations began tracking wrongful convictions in 1989, there have been nearly 300 known wrongful convictions in California – causing innocent Californians to lose years of their lives. Wrongful convictions undermine our criminal legal system and violate fundamental principles of justice and due process.

Estimates on the number of innocent people in prison range from 2-10% of the prison population. The most recent CDCR TPOP4 weekly report, dated 7/13/22, documents 97,009 people in custody. *If just **1%** of the current population of the CDCR are innocent, that means California is currently incarcerating nearly **1000 innocent people**.*

**Wrongful convictions** deny justice to victims and **decrease public safety** by allowing actual perpetrators of crime the freedom to continue to cause harm to the public.

Witness to Innocence is the only national organization in the United States composed of and led by people exonerated from death row. Since 1973, 189 people who had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to death in the U.S. have been exonerated - 7 of those in California. We know there are innocent people behind bars, because our members were once there themselves. Executive Director Kirk Bloodsworth was the first person exonerated from death row based on DNA evidence. In 1985, he was convicted of murdering 9-year old Dawn Hamilton in Maryland. At the time of Kirk's exoneration in 1993, the true perpetrator was incarcerated for an attempted rape and murder that happened just a few weeks after Kirk was arrested.

We urge you to support Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission. If you have any questions about our position on this bill, please contact Stefanie Anderson at 206-713-5685 or [sanderson@witnessinnocence.org](mailto:sanderson@witnessinnocence.org).

Sincerely,

Stefanie Anderson  
Accuracy & Justice Program Manager  
Witness to Innocence  
[sanderson@witnessinnocence.org](mailto:sanderson@witnessinnocence.org)

cc: Angela Calvillo, Alisa Somera, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: File No. 220830 - letter of support  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 5:28:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [7.18.22 Support letter-San Fran BoS Resolution 220830.pdf](#)

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*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: Stefanie Anderson <sanderson@witnessstoinnocence.org>

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 5:06 PM

To: Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Dorsey, Matt (BOS) <matt.dorsey@sfgov.org>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS)

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

Subject: File No. 220830 - letter of support

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Hello,

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Stefanie Anderson

Accuracy & Justice Program Manager

Witness to Innocence

1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102

C: 206-713-5685

www.witnesstoinnocence.org

WITNESS TO INNOCENCE

July 18, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Email: Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

[VIA EMAIL]

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Sincerely,

Stefanie Anderson
Accuracy & Justice Program Manager
Witness to Innocence
sanderson@witnessinnocence.org

cc: Angela Calvillo, Alisa Somera, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: File No. 220830 - Innocence Commission
Date: Monday, July 18, 2022 4:27:22 PM

For 220830

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:** patricia <pasmada@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 16, 2022 2:19 PM  
**To:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** File No. 220830 - Innocence Commission

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

Dear Ms. Calvillo and Ms. Somera,

In 2020, after working as a private criminal defense investigator for 30 years, I was energized by our new DA, Chesa Boudin, and his fresh, reformative and holistic approach to criminal justice. So I approached his office to offer my services.

I've been honored to work as an investigator with the Innocence Commission, and to play a role in helping examine cases where there is evidence of innocence. It is a meticulous and exhaustive process to *prove* innocence. Indeed, the Commissioners, the staff attorney, and the DA's point person – Arcelia Hurtado – have worked tirelessly towards that end.

The Innocence Commission is a collaboration between criminal justice professionals from diverse and often adversarial backgrounds, with a common goal that aims purely for justice. I strongly urge you, and the Board of Supervisors in its most influential capacity to support this program -- and most importantly, to support its expert participants who are committed to true criminal justice.

Patricia de Larios

San Francisco

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de Larios Peyton Investigations  
PO Box 330291  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
510-915-4358

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Save The Innocence Commission  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 3:48:23 PM

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File 220830

*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)

**(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: Mary <maria.bugarin7@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 5:40 PM
To: Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; hiliary.ronen@sfgov.org; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>
Cc: angela.cavillo@sfgov.org; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Please Save The Innocence Commission

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 282
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
<Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org>

July 17, 2022

Dear Supervisors:

Please vote in favor of Board Resolution 220-830..

The Innocence Commission is made up of dedicated attorneys and investigators including many who work pro bono tirelessly to assist innocent people incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. It is a tragedy that can happen to anyone, and particularly impacts people who are poor and people of color.

Wrongful convictions are traumatic, denying innocent people their basic human liberties and robbing them of years of their lives away from their homes and families. The victims of crime are denied true justice and the actual perpetrator is not held accountable.

It was extremely concerning to me that the recently appointed DA Brooke Jenkins first fire was an attorney from the Innocence Commission. She has basically disbanded the commission started under DA Chesa Boudin. It needs to continue as an independent entity free from politics.

Thank you.

Maria Bugarin

338 Lombard Street, SF CA 94133

From: [Katie Monroe](#)
To: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File No. 220830, Innocence Commission
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:05:25 AM

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Please find attached our letter of support for File No 220830.

Thank you,

Katie Monroe
Executive Director
Healing Justice
202-738-4925 (office)
202-997-9132 (mobile)
kmonroe@healingjusticeproject.org
www.healingjusticeproject.org
www.survivorservices.org



July 18, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File No. 220830 (Preston & Ronen) SUPPORT


Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

We write to respectfully submit our support for Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission. This resolution urges the interim District Attorney to keep the Innocence Commission intact and to allow the SFDA's Post Conviction Unit to continue its innovative and important effort to investigate and address mistakes by our justice system.

When our justice system mistakenly convicts and imprisons the wrong person while the true perpetrator remains free, the human toll is widespread and long-lasting. Everyone touched by the case - the original crime victims and survivors, the wrongly convicted, both of their families, as well as jurors, judges, prosecutors, police, and the public - is harmed. We lead a national nonprofit organization called Healing Justice, which addresses this individual and collective harm. We come to this work from deep personal experience, having each been directly impacted by a wrongful conviction and subsequent exoneration.

The Innocence Commission provides a cost-effective, efficient, and neutral way to review post-conviction claims of factual innocence while also protecting victims' rights and ensuring that crime victims and survivors are offered support and not caused further harm during the post-conviction review process. Therefore, again, we respectfully submit our support.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Thompson
Founder


Katie Monroe
Executive Director

From: [CPDA President](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File No. 220830 - CPDA Letter of support
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:54:00 AM
Attachments: [CPDA letter of support - Resolution to Protect Innocence Commission.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon:

The California Public Defenders Association submits this letter to support Resolution File No. 220830. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at cpdapres@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Graciela Martinez
CPDA, President



CPDA

A Statewide Association of Public Defenders and
Criminal Defense Counsel

California Public Defenders Association
10324 Placer Lane
Sacramento, CA 95827
Phone (916) 362-1686
Fax (916) 362-3346
Email: cpda@cpda.org

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Graciela Martinez
Los Angeles County

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Email: Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

[VIA EMAIL]

RE: File No. 220830 (Preston & Ronen) SUPPORT

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

With nearly 4,000 members, the California Public Defenders Association (CPDA) is the largest association of criminal defense attorneys and public defenders in the State of California. Its members practice in the trial, juvenile, mental health and appellate courts statewide. CPDA promotes the legal rights of Californians accused or convicted of crimes, as well as the interests of all Californians in the fair administration of justice.

CPDA is pleased to support Resolution File No. 220830, which would urge the San Francisco District Attorney's Office to continue to operate its Innocence Commission. This resolution urges the interim District Attorney to keep the Innocence Commission intact and to allow the SFDA's Post Conviction Unit to continue its related wrongful conviction and resentencing work.

Since the National Registry of Exonerations began tracking wrongful convictions in 1989, there have been more than 270 known wrongful convictions in California – causing innocent Californians to lose a total of 2,104 years of their lives and costing California tax-payers over \$275 million. These wrongful convictions occurred as the real perpetrators of crime avoided consequences for their actions and victims were denied justice. Wrongful convictions undermine our criminal legal system and violate fundamental principles of justice and due process. The National Registry of Exonerations data also demonstrates that significantly more people of color, and in particular, African Americans and Latinos, have been wrongly convicted of crimes in this country.

Although some prosecutorial agencies have formed conviction integrity units to address such wrongs, the integrity units have proved inadequately resourced and inadequately independent. Turned away by the prosecutors, wrongfully convicted persons have had no remedy except to resort to years or even decades-long litigation. In contrast, the Innocence Commission commits substantial resources and affords substantial independence. Thereby, it is succeeding in remedying and preventing Californians from suffering punishment for a crime that they did not commit. Its prompt, just resolution of factual innocence and equitable resentencing matters builds public trust in the criminal legal system, and reduces the civil liability of the taxpayers.

For the above reasons, CPDA respectfully urges your "YES" vote on Resolution File No. 220830 in support of the continuation of the San Francisco District Attorney's Innocence Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me at cpdapres@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'GM', is written over a horizontal line.

GRACIELA MARTINEZ
President, CPDA

From: [Steve Vender](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: angela.calvillo@sfgov.org alisa.somera@sfgov.org
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:07:12 AM
Attachments: [Letter to the Board of Supervisors.docx](#)

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Letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the resolution for the continued existence of the Innocence Commission.

July 19, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: File No. 220830
Item #68 on Today's Agenda

Dear San Francisco Supervisors,

My name is Steve Vender. I am a private investigator who specializes in criminal and indigent defense, with twenty-seven years of experience. In 2018 I was appointed by the Superior Court to investigate a wrongful conviction in a homicide case. I've worked with attorney Mark Vermeulen on this case and continue to do so.

After a two-year in-depth investigation into this case, I did what the police should have done fifteen years ago. I solved a fifteen year old homicide. In a twenty page investigative report, including a four page addendum, I identified the real killer in this case and his co-conspirators. After extensively profiling the people involved in this case, I was able to offer what the prosecution never did during the trial in which our client was convicted, and that is a believable and convincing motive for the homicide.

My report eventually found its way to the Innocence Commission, where Lara Bazelon is the chairperson. After presenting our case to the Innocence Commission and sending them important witnesses who were never called by the defense to testify at our client's trial, the Innocence Commission was conducting its own investigation and was scheduled to interview our client who has been in county jail and state prison for the last fifteen years. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for a homicide that he most definitely did not commit.

However, with the continued existence of the Innocence Commission in question, notwithstanding the new DA's early assurances of support, especially since DA Jenkins recently fired two Assistant District Attorneys who were the Commission's liaisons to the DA's office, I am writing to you today to strongly urge you to support the resolution before the Board, brought by Supervisors Preston and Ronen, to keep the Commission intact so that they can continue their valuable work.

We have filed a Habeas Petition in this case, but we won't get a decision until sometime in late August. The petition has four claims: Actual Innocence, Prosecutorial Misconduct, and two extensively documented claims of Ineffective Assistance of Counsel. It is our hope that after interviewing our client, the Innocence Commission would write their own report and provide a strong recommendation for vacating our client's conviction and releasing him from state prison. A positive recommendation from the Innocence Commission will carry great weight.

The Innocence Commission is unique and absolutely essential in establishing how innocent people are convicted and sent to prison for life. Therefore, I am urging that you vote for the resolution that would put the Board of Supervisors on record as supporting the continued existence of the Commission so that they can continue to address the great wrongs done to people who were innocent of the crimes for which they were charged and wrongly convicted. I realize that the resolution is non-binding, but your unanimous support of this resolution will contribute to helping correct wrongful convictions in pursuit of the true justice we all seek from our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

Steve Vender
California State Licensed Investigator
License #18434