

1 [Central City Community Courts Working Group.]

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3 **Resolution creating a Central City Community Courts Working Group to be comprised**  
4 **of various stakeholders with the charge of making recommendations to the Mayor and**  
5 **the Board of Supervisors and setting forth the membership and duties of the working**  
6 **group.**

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8 WHEREAS, Community Courts are an alternative to traditional criminal court case  
9 processing of misdemeanor crime and infractions, also known as “quality of life” crimes; and,

10 WHEREAS, Community court sentences are intended to help restore neighborhoods  
11 through community service projects and to rehabilitate defendants through social service  
12 programs; and,

13 WHEREAS, Community Courts are growing in popularity with more than 12 community  
14 courts already in existence nationwide, with twelve more are expected to operate nationwide  
15 including New York City, Portland, Oregon, and Austin, Texas; and,

16 WHEREAS, In 1993, New York City initiated the Midtown Court Project in order to  
17 mitigate the many social concerns and quality of life crimes,

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s community courts model was established in 1998 and is  
19 currently administered by the District Attorney’s Office in collaboration with the San Francisco  
20 Mayor’s Office, San Francisco Municipal and Superior Courts, San Francisco Police  
21 Department, Public Defender’s Office and the California Community Dispute Services after  
22 the urging of the community and the state to resolve minor infractions; and,

23 WHEREAS, Approximately 96% of those who have attended community courts have  
24 fulfilled their obligation to either perform community services or pay restitution and have  
25 performed various community service projects; and,

1           WHEREAS, Despite the early success of San Francisco community courts pilot  
2 program, the future of this program and its administrative structure remains uncertain and  
3 accordingly efforts must be made to ensure that the city adopt a formal community courts  
4 model to ensure the successful future of this program; and,

5           WHEREAS, The community courts program is an opportunity to incorporate the  
6 community in solving the essential problems which directly affect the quality of life in the  
7 community; and

8           WHEREAS, On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, a hearing was held before the Audit, Labor and  
9 Government Efficiency Committee in order to discern the community courts model that has  
10 been adopted in at least a dozen areas nationwide to handle quality of life crimes such as  
11 shoplifting, prostitution, and drug use; and,

12           WHEREAS, Members of the public provided testimony specifying the need to examine  
13 the successes of community courts in other municipalities; the success of San Francisco's  
14 community courts pilot program and the potential implementation of adopting a new  
15 community courts model to define the administration of the court system and jurisdiction of the  
16 courts; and,

17           WHEREAS, A significant number of stakeholders were present at this hearing and  
18 provided testimonials which encouraged the adoption of a model similar to that of the Mid-  
19 Town Manhattan Community Court Model; and,

20           WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages  
21 the establishment of public and private leadership to ensure that all stakeholders participate in  
22 the creation and adoption of ways in solving the essential problems which directly affect the  
23 quality of life in the community; now, therefore, be it  
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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
2 hereby creates a Central City Community Courts Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Working  
3 Group which shall be subject to mandates of the Sunshine Ordinance; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Committee Working Group, in coordination with the  
5 Office of the District Attorney, shall review and make recommendations to the Board on  
6 possible legislative and budgetary actions regarding:

- 7 1) the discussion and development of a citywide community courts model, and one  
8 which supports the need to bring all stakeholders back into the criminal justice  
9 system as partners that can offer numerous resources to help rehabilitate offenders;  
10 and  
11 2) the discussion and development of any other matters relating to the community  
12 courts structures and/or add new features to build a community court system that  
13 reflects the City’s particular needs and values; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Central City Community Courts Advisory Committee  
15 Working Group shall include the following representatives and alternate  
16 representatives designated by the following groups:

- 17 • One (1) member or designee of the South of Market Business Group (SOBIG),
- 18 • One (1) member or designee of the Coalition on Homelessness,
- 19 • One (1) member or designee of the Union Square Association,
- 20 • One (1) member or designee of St. Anthony’s Foundation,
- 21 • One (1) member or designee of Yerba Buena Alliance
- 22 • One (1) member or designee of the South of Market PAC,
- 23 • One (1) member or designee of Adopt-A-Block,
- 24 • One (1) member or designee of the Tenderloin Community Patrol,
- 25 • One (1) member or designee of the Mayor’s Office of Homelessness,

- 1 • One (1) member or designee of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services,
- 2 • One (1) member or designee of the Mayor’s Criminal Justice Council,
- 3 • One (1) member or designee of the Department of Human Services,
- 4 • One (1) member or designee of the Department of Public Health,
- 5 • One (1) member or designee of the San Francisco Police Department,
- 6 • One (1) member or designee of the San Francisco Office of the District Attorney,
- 7 • One (1) member or designee of the Office of Public Defender
- 8 • One (1) member or designee of the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department,
- 9 • One (1) member or designee of the San Francisco Superior Courts; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Office of Legislative Analyst shall provide staff  
11 assistance to the Committee; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Office of the Clerk shall implement any legally  
13 mandated public notice requirements; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Central City Community Courts Working Group shall  
15 begin meeting immediately in order to develop its concerns, findings or recommendations to  
16 the Board of Supervisors.

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