

1 [Declaring September 2007 as Reentry Month]

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3 **Resolution declaring the month of September 2007 as Reentry month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, The California Department of Corrections housed 168,035 inmates in
7 2005, the largest prison population in the nation and four times the amount since 1980; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of felons paroled from California prisons has skyrocketed in
9 recent years from 9,776 in 1977, to 50,512 in 1987, to 121,015 in 1997; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2005, 115,001 adults and 3,515 juveniles in California were on parole;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 2002 nearly one in five parolees in America lived in California; and

13 WHEREAS, California has a rate 42% higher than the national average number of
14 parolees per 100,000 people; and

15 WHEREAS, Only one in every 10 parolees access services available through a
16 corrections program and only 6 percent in employment programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Half of parolees are illiterate, only 10 percent access literacy services, and
18 many have long histories of criminal or gang involvement and little marketable skills; and

19 WHEREAS, Nearly 2/3 of California adult parolees return to prison within three years;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Most parolees have been released to parole systems that provide little
22 services, which ensures that the recidivism rates remain high and public support for parolee
23 and inmate services remains low; and

24 WHEREAS, 65 percent of 115,000 parolees have drug problems only 6 percent receive
25 services; and

1 WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that 20 of homeless adults have a criminal record;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 2005, 80,962 parole felons were sent back to prison; and

4 WHEREAS, California spending on parole services was cut 44% in 1997, resulting in a
5 near-doubling of parole caseloads to a ratio of 82 parolees for each parole officer; and

6 WHEREAS, At a time when San Francisco is experiencing an epidemic of violence,
7 ensuring that parolees and probationers are supported and prepared to reenter society is
8 crucial to restoring peace on our streets; and

9 WHEREAS, a broad coalition of public officials including the Public Defender, District
10 Attorney, Sheriff, Mayor's Office, and Board of Supervisors have come together in various
11 ways with City and state departments and community-based organizations to form the Safe
12 Communities and San Francisco Reentry Councils; and

13 WHEREAS, the mission of the Safe Communities Reentry Council is to promote the
14 safe and successful return of formerly incarcerated individuals to our community by
15 developing a comprehensive support system that reduces violence and recidivism, and
16 promotes public safety; and

17 WHEREAS, the goal of the San Francisco Reentry Council is to prevent recidivism and
18 provide ex-offenders with essential support and employment opportunities needed to
19 permanently exit the criminal justice system; and

20 WHEREAS, the Safe Communities Reentry Council is holding the 2nd Annual Reentry
21 Summit, "Working Together to Support San Franciscans After Incarceration" on September
22 19, 2007 with the support of San Francisco State University and The California Endowment;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Reentry Strategies Institute
25 and District Attorney Kamala Harris will launch the first ever San Francisco Reentry Employer

1 Network on September 24, 2007 to provide information and education on the economic and
2 community benefits of hiring people transitioning from the criminal justice system; and

3 WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department has recently launched innovative programs to
4 meet the needs of ex-offenders, including the No Violence Alliance (NoVA) Project, and the
5 Women's Reentry Center; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 declares September 2007 as "Reentry Month" in the City and County of San Francisco.

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