

From: [Nicholas Kimura](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [NoNewSFJail Coalition](#)
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 1:11:15 PM

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

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Chan, and Safai:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the resolution supporting electronic monitoring because the program is not an actual investment in resources that are proven to assist people abide by court conditions of release and is not the support which is necessary to ensure public safety or appearances at future court dates.

Instead, I ask that you, our legislators, invest in resources such as pretrial diversion programs, shelter, and housing that are proven to positively impact future court appearances and public safety. New York invested in such resources and reduced failures to appear by 26%.

Furthermore, electronic monitoring is not a method that even reduces jail population, evidenced by a recent increase in electronic monitoring and incarceration. This demonstrates that decreasing the number of individuals in SF jail's would not be achieved by increased electronic monitoring.

Lastly, Sentinel, the company with the monitoring Ks, is highly problematic. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit."

Thus, I ask that legislators do not support a policy that does not ensure greater public safety or assist individuals in making future court appearances. Please exercise due care for the budget and policies of SF, and oppose this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas N. Kimura

--

Nicholas Kimura (he/him)
San Francisco, CA

"Este mundo no va a cambiar a menos que estemos dispuestas a cambiar nosotros"

mismos." ~ Rigoberta Menchú

From: [Steffi BW](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [NoNewSFJail Coalition](#)
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 12:32:48 PM

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

My name is Steffi BW, I live in District 1 of San Francisco. I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring.

Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

Electronic monitoring (EM) is NOT an alternative to incarceration, it is another form of incarceration. It is a punitive sanction that fails to provide the services, support, and opportunities that people need. Electronic monitoring expands jails and policing into the homes and communities of Black, Indigenous, Brown, Trans, and poor people and increases surveillance.

Electronic monitoring is growing along with the jail population instead of reducing it. Between 2018 and early 2020, the number of people with ankle monitors in San Francisco tripled with bail reform, but the jail population increased. Monitors are being used as an expansion of surveillance rather than as a "replacement for imprisonment."

Instead of electronic monitoring, we need to do the following:

- **Decriminalize quality of life crimes.** EM being used for houseless folks quality-of-life violations for example. Decriminalizing reduces arrests and therefore enrollment in EM.
- **Explore all possibilities for release,** including expanding criteria for own-recognition release and other pretrial diversion and programming.
- **Invest in services** and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
- **Focus on community support** rather than pre-conviction shackling, surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in

addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

Thank you,
Steffi
9th ave and Geary

From: [Karina Bucciarelli](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); nonews@jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 05, 2022 12:14:48 PM

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

My name is *Karina Bucciarelli*, I love and work in San Francisco district 9.

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

We still do not have complete publicly accessible data on the breakdown of offenses for those on electronic monitoring, how long people are kept on EM, the program violations that people are charged with, consequences of violations, procedures around those violations and how many people are re-incarcerated because of violations.

This board has a responsibility to bring this information to light and should hold further hearings where the community can weigh in.

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Explore all possibilities for release, including expanding criteria for own-recognition release and other pretrial diversion and programming. Electronic monitoring and pre-trial detention should be the last option.
Invest in services and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
Focus on community support rather than pre-conviction shackling, surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

Thank you,
Karina Bucciarelli

3387 22nd St

From: [Nick DeRenzi](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews@jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 11:08:23 AM

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

My name is Nick DeRenzi, I live in San Francisco in District 1, the Inner Richmond. I am also part of the organization Critical Resistance.

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release and build up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

I have known friends and community members who have had to endure the restrictions of electronic monitoring while also trying to get on with their lives. EM is restrictive and has so many obstacles and barriers for folks to actually get back to building up their life to become a better part of the community. The need for well funded life affirming services and non-punish based accountability processes are needed in our city. We have seen how decades of policing, imprisonment and surveillance have not made our city safer but actually more divided.

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- **Invest in services** and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
-

Focus on community support rather than pre-conviction shackling, surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

Thank you,

Nick DeRenzi
2808 Golden Gate Ave
SF, CA 94118

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Nick DeRenzi
Development Assistant
Critical Resistance
P.O. Box. 22780
Oakland, CA 94609-2301
Office: 510.444.0484
M-W 9AM-5PM

From: [James Kilgore](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Submission for Electronic Monitoring Hearing
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:43:22 AM

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

I am the lead researcher for a project called Challenging E-Carceration, led by the non-profit organization, MediaJustice. I have been researching and writing about electronic monitoring since I was placed on a monitor as a condition of my own parole. I have interviewed and spoken with dozens of people who have been on various forms of electronic monitoring and house arrest. I also participated in the production of the research report, *Cages Without Bars*, led by the Shriver Center of Poverty Law and Chicago Appleseed. This report included a case study of the use of pretrial electronic monitoring in San Francisco. My research on this topic is also contained in my book [Understanding E-Carceration](#), published by The New Press earlier this year.

My research and experience of electronic monitoring has led me to three conclusions. First, that there is no research whatsoever that establishes the effectiveness of electronic monitoring, either as a benefit to the individual being monitored or for the safety of the community. It has maintained its presence as a policy tool due to a mythology that tracking people somehow makes us safe. It does not. Second, monitors are extremely punitive, the most punitive option for pretrial release. They mimic the conditions of jail and prison by confining people to a small space, limiting their movement and causing them trauma largely due to the fear of breaking a rule or being falsely accused of breaking a rule. Third, as technology these devices are woeful. There are numerous reports from individuals of being arrested for violation of house arrest conditions when they were in the house. A recent [report](#) from the Chicago Reader and the Triibe showed that more than 80% of the alarms triggered as location violations were false reports. The device punishes people all too often for the inaccuracy of the device. Moreover, most devices require constant recharging of the battery, often in places or at times when the individual cannot easily access a charging point. Fourth, though data remains limited, in the studies that have been done, including San Francisco, people of color, especially Black people are disproportionately subject to electronic monitoring.

Bearing these things in mind, I recommend that San Francisco not renew the contract with Sentinel. A much better option would be to spend that budget allocation of services and programs in areas like mental health, substance use treatment, and low-income housing which keep people out of jail and address the underlying causes of crime rather than punishing people after the fact with an unproven, ineffective and punitive technology.

James Kilgore

MediaJustice | mediajustice.org

Media Fellow

From: [Calder Lorenz](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews@jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:02:38 AM

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

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Calder Lorenz, I live and work in the Mission District, and I am the Director of Operations for The Gubbio Project. I am writing to voice our opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

The Gubbio Project's mission is to be in community with and to provide a sacred space and sanctuary for unhoused people in need of safe, compassionate respite during the day. Our program is housed at St. John's in the Mission and currently provides critical services to 100 individuals daily through a highly unique and successful model that combines social justice, peer support, and harm reduction. The Gubbio Project calls for a more just, compassionate and non-punitive approach by public agencies and policymakers. A restorative justice approach that provides an array of options and alternatives to incarceration and electronic monitoring is one that cares for and protects our neighbors, without leaving them more vulnerable and deeper in suffering.

Electronic monitoring (EM) is NOT an alternative to incarceration, it is another form of incarceration. It is a punitive sanction that fails to provide the services, support, and opportunities that people need. Electronic monitoring expands jails and policing into the homes and communities of Black, Indigenous, Brown, Trans, and poor people and increases surveillance.

Electronic monitoring is growing along with the jail population instead of reducing it. Between 2018 and early 2020, the number of people with ankle monitors in San Francisco tripled with bail reform, but the jail population increased. Monitors are being used as an expansion of surveillance rather than as a "replacement for imprisonment."

Instead of electronic monitoring, we need to do the following:

- **Decriminalize quality of life crimes.** EM being used for houseless folks quality-of-life violations for example. Decriminalizing reduces arrests and therefore enrollment in EM.

- **Explore all possibilities for release**, including expanding criteria for own-recognizance release and other pretrial diversion and programming. Electronic monitoring and pre-trial detention should be the last option.
- **Invest in services** and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
- **Focus on community support** rather than pre-conviction shackling, surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

In Community,

Calder

--

Calder Lorenz (he/him), *Harm Reduction Saves Lives, I carry naloxone!*

Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project

(415)-571-6391 cell phone

calder@thegubbioproject.org

thegubbioproject.org

From: [Anja Bircher](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews4jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 8:50:20 AM

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

My name is *Anja Bircher, of Flying Over Walls*, I **live and work** in San Francisco.

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

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Thank you,
Anja Bircher, PsyD
29A San Carlos St.

From: [Raya Steier](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews4jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:26:24 PM

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

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Raya Steier, I am an API immigrant and a District 7 resident in San Francisco. I work for the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco & currently serve on the executive board of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club.

I am writing to you in my personal capacity to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

Not only does electronic monitoring impose excessive surveillance on people coming home from prison, but it also hinders their ability to successfully transition back into the community. Additionally, there is no concrete evidence that electronic monitoring reduces crime rates or recidivism.

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Invest in services and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.

Focus on community support rather than pre-conviction shackling,

surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

Thank you,

Raya Steier

1723 Holloway Avenue SF 94132

From: [Juliana Dunn](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews4jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 10:09:14 PM

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

My name is Juliana Dunn, I work in San Francisco as a case manager for homeless services provider Compass Family Services.

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

Electronic monitoring disconnects people most in need of connection with their communities. It prevents families from staying united. It makes homelessness an even more difficult experience. It prevents people from participating in much needed services like those provided by my organization.

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Thank you,
Juliana Dunn

From: [Andrea Salinas](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org; [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonews4jail.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment 10/5 Budget & Finance Committee
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 10:44:16 PM

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

My name is Andrea Salinas, I live and work in San Francisco. I am constituent of district 9, and work in district 6.

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring. Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in community services and structures that provide San Franciscans opportunities to sustain themselves in constructive ways, housing, and the health care they need, thus providing security for San Franciscans of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Building these opportunities and access to care increases safety for everyone in our community.

As a clinical social worker at an Intensive Case Management clinic in the SOMA we have seen a dramatic increase in EM placed on our clients over the last 5 years, particularly post the COVID pandemic. Previously our clients were released to residential treatment programs and to our care without EM and since EM there are no notable changes to client compliance with the terms of their release or probation. Further, the life circumstances, history and mental health profiles of our clients have not changed at all, Why are they now being considered to be of greater risk necessitating EM? There is also no evidence that EM changes the behaviors and outcomes for individuals that are seriously mentally ill and dually diagnosed with substance use disorders once they are back in the community. If anything it increases distress on already vulnerable individuals. Individuals with serious mental illness exhibit high levels of disorganization, and inability to focus and track information; this makes it extremely difficult for them to remember to charge their ankle monitors and very fearful of the appliances, added distress that exacerbates mental health symptoms.

I work with a lady confined to a wheel chair with complex trauma and schizophrenia that had to wear an ankle monitor for nearly one year. She was and continues to be so psychotic she had no idea what the ankle monitor was for, nor had any recollection of what had even occurred that lead to her arrest. Wearing the ankle monitor was of absolutely no purpose to the execution of justice in her situation. It was ludicrous to think that the placement of an ankle monitor on someone in a wheelchair with such low functioning and comprehension who posed no flight risk, nor comprehended in any way what was occurring with her legal case somehow served to mitigate risk.

Electronic monitoring (EM) is NOT an alternative to incarceration, it is another form of incarceration. It is a punitive sanction that fails to provide the services, support, and opportunities that people need. Electronic monitoring expands jails and policing into the homes and communities of Black, Indigenous, Brown, Trans, Disabled and poor people and increases surveillance.

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- **Invest in services** and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
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Furthermore, Sentinel Offender Services, the private company that the Sheriff contracts with, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit." So in addition to electronic monitoring being a fundamentally harmful technology, it would be further shameful for San Francisco to continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.

Thank you,
Andrea Salinas

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Andrea Salinas

From: [Sami Kitmitto](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); nonewsfbill.outreach@gmail.com
Subject: Public comment for 10/5 Budget & Finance Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:25:00 PM

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

From: Sami Kitmitto, 66 Alvarado Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, District 9 (previously District 8)

I am writing to voice my opposition to electronic monitoring (EM). EM is a punitive form of incarceration that, like other forms of incarceration fails to address the need for true safety in our society and instead increases harm and trauma for individuals subjected to EM and their families who have police and surveillance inserted into their homes.

We need to explore changes and alternatives that lead to an end of policing and incarceration. These include

- **Decriminalize quality of life crimes.** EM being used for houseless folks quality-of-life violations for example. Decriminalizing reduces arrests and therefore enrollment in EM.
- **Explore all possibilities for release,** including expanding criteria for own-recognition release and other pretrial diversion and programming. Electronic monitoring and pre-trial detention should be the last option.
- **Invest in services** and programs that bolster pretrial support including creative solutions that eliminate barriers and assist folks to attend their pretrial court hearings.
- **Focus on community support** rather than pre-conviction shackling, surveillance, and punishment. Let's take seriously the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

And, at the same time we need to **make investments that address people's needs such as for housing and work with dignity.** These investments will bring us the safety that all want.

Our city's reliance on electronic monitoring is harmful, and we should instead invest in services that support more opportunities for release, building up our communities in ways that keep us all safe instead of more forms of incarceration.

Finally, it is important to note that Sentinel Offender Services, the private EM contractor, has been mired in controversy over its predatory practices. It has faced dozens of lawsuits in Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia, and has been sued another 15 times in federal courts in Georgia, Florida, and California. The Southern Center for Human Rights has stated that "*Sentinel's predatory practices have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with turning a profit.*" So in addition to EM being a fundamentally harmful technology, it also abhorrent for San Francisco to

continue doing business with a company that is notorious for its human rights abuses.