

From: [Marissa Hatton](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Endorsement for Reentry Council for Emilio Bustamante, Tyler Hart, and Rahsaan Thomas
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 7:23:49 AM

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Good morning Mr. Young,

I'm writing to submit the following for public comment.

I am a San Francisco resident and civil rights lawyer strongly endorsing Emilio Bustamante, Tyler Hart, and Rahsaan Thomas for the reentry council.

I work closely with **Emilio Bustamante** at the Prison Law Office, an organization focused on prison conditions and ensuring safe conditions for individuals transitioning to parole. It's hard to overstate what an asset Mr. Bustamante is to our work: he has lived experience that helps bridge the gap between incarcerated individuals, community members, attorneys, and law enforcement officers. I have seen firsthand how Mr. Bustamante immediately instills trust and confidence in those that work with him, including individuals involved in the criminal system. In his spare time, Mr. Bustamante testifies as an expert on cases involving the Racial Justice Act, usually in an effort to protect Latino youth from racism in police investigations and prosecutions. Mr. Bustamante's sense of justice and dedication to his community is unquestionable. Importantly, Mr. Bustamante's public policy knowledge that surpasses that of most attorneys I work with; he is consistently up to date on developments in statewide law, and he regularly references the San Francisco City Council's meeting minutes to stay up to date on measures and initiatives that affect formerly incarcerated individuals. Mr. Bustamante is the exact type of person I trust with important policy decisions for our community, and I hope you appoint him to Seat 2, Seat 4, or any seat for which he qualifies.

Tyler Hart is a truly extraordinary success story, a deeply dedicated advocate for people struggling with substance abuse issues, and someone who would bring important lived experience to the reentry council. Like many people reentering the community, Mr. Hart had very little social support when he was released from prison, and had to overcome significant obstacles to obtaining employment and reentering the community successfully. He worked hard to educate himself, become stable, support a family, and to earn an undergraduate degree, all while working for community rehab organizations that serve individuals seeking to overcome substance abuse disorders. Mr. Hart knows the unique needs of reentry populations with mental health and addiction issues, and is a strong community advocate, particularly for youth and families. Mr. Hart is one of the hardest workers I know, and would serve the best interests of our community. I strongly urge you to appoint him to Seat 1, or any seat for which he qualifies.

I've also met **Rahsaan Thomas** through my work at the Prison Law Office, whose commitment to the San Francisco community is undeniable. Mr. Thomas may be familiar to you, as he co-founded and co-hosted the award-winning podcast "Ear Hustle" while he was in San Quentin. Since his release, Mr. Thomas has worked relentlessly to uplift the art and literature of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. He works with diverse and often-overlooked communities; he has worked with San Francisco-based organizations to curate art exhibits focused on women involved in the criminal system, and has produced documentaries about Deaf individuals in the carceral system. Mr. Thomas is a journalist, writer, producer, fundraiser, and curator, with a proven record of project management. Mr. Thomas founded Empowerment Avenue, and is well-known in reentry communities for his commitment to uplifting artists, writers, and filmmakers impacted by the criminal system. Mr. Thomas would bring incredible talent, insight, and deep community connections to the reentry council, and I urge you to appoint him to Seat 1, 2, 3, or 4.

Thank you very much,

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