

From: [Casimir Kotarski](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment for 11/6 hearing
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:38:00 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

I am Casimir, an advocate for open government and transgender resident of San Francisco. We cannot oversee what we cannot see. Require GEO Group and CDCR to release inspection reports, incident logs, staffing ratios, occupancy levels, and grievance outcomes each month. Publish them online. If they refuse, bring them back for a follow-up hearing. Sunlight is step one.

And as an actor that has been privilege to getting to tell the story of Compton's Cafeteria Riot through immersive storytelling, it's an absolute disgrace on behalf of history that a carceral facility operates at the cross section of Turk and Taylor.

Thank you for your time,
Casimir Kotarski

From: [Aidan Brown](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment re Oversight Hearing Against GEO Group
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 5:12:35 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Aidan Brown, resident of District 5 and an advocate for open government. We cannot oversee what we cannot see. Require GEO Group and CDCR to release inspection reports, incident logs, staffing ratios, occupancy levels, and grievance outcomes each month. Publish them online. If they refuse, bring them back for a follow-up hearing. Sunlight is step one.

Aidan Brown

From: [Donna Cruz](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Written Comment: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 2:53:06 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Donna. I am here for justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

Best,
Donna

From: [Calder Storm](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: SF BoS Hearing November 6, 2025 - Public Comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 3:12:14 PM

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

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Calder Storm. I am extremely concerned about the zoning and resulting usage of 111 Taylor Street.

The SF Planning Department labeled this property as “Group Housing” many years ago, and has simply renewed the annual permits with no real examination of what the facility is actually being used for in modern days. The mandatory daily headcounts, searches, and locked doors that are standard operation practice at 111 Taylor show this facility is actually used as a means of detention. That mismatch hides harm. It also blocks public review.

I ask that Direct Planning and the City Attorney reassess GEO Group’s use of this facility. If it meets Residential Care zoning criteria, require the proper change-of-use permit. Bring this operation into daylight and allow for full public review. The loopholes created by lazy City annual renewals must cease.

Further, the building at 111 Taylor is of historical significance to the trans community, both in San Francisco and nationally. GEO Group is a private prison company, a known financial benefactor of ICE, and stands in direct opposition to San Francisco and the trans community's values.

I beseech you to listen to the residents of San Francisco, and take steps to return 111 Taylor to the trans community.

Thank you,
Calder Storm

From: [Emily Barrett](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Conditions at GEO Group's 111 Taylor Street Facility
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 4:34:58 PM

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Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Emily Barrett, PsyD; I am a psychologist and San Francisco resident. People leaving prison need stability, agency, and trust. At 111 Taylor they get control and fear. Curfews and surprise searches trigger trauma. People shut down. They leave early or violate out. That is a pipeline back to custody. Replace punishment with evidence-based care. Require licensed mental health services and trauma-informed practice. Make that a condition to operate.

Best,
Emily Barrett, PsyD

From: [Jo Kreiter](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 111 Taylor_ public comment
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 6:56:03 PM

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

Regarding the upcoming hearing on GEO Group, happening Nov 6 at 10 AM:

The punitive, prison-like environment at 111 Taylor takes a psychological toll on the people inside. We've heard how state parolees, who were officially free, still felt "kept in prison" by GEO's rules. For someone reentering society after decades behind bars, being subjected to midnight room searches, daily roll calls, and rigid curfews can be traumatizing. One person from 2016 described it as "they did a good job of making me still feel like I got some prison here", noting that even after 23 years incarcerated, her six months at GEO's center extended the trauma instead of easing her transition. The lack of trust and autonomy, combined with fear of arbitrary punishment, can severely harm mental health. Such conditions are the antithesis of what a reentry program should provide – namely, a supportive, normalizing environment.

I would like to see GEO group leave the city entirely.

Thank You.

Jo Kreiter
San Francisco Voter

From: [peace](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 7:13:23 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Peace Cheung. I write to you with intent on finding justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared, and that he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. Right after saying this alarming message, he passed the next day. That should never happen in a reentry program. Yet, it happened under GEO Group's oversight. As a taxpayer and friend of Melvin Bulauan, I want to request a full, public report on what failed as well as an improvement plan which should include a timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again. Thank you for your service to the public.

Sincerely,
Peace Cheung

From: [gayle whitley](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Trauma and Mental Health
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 7:25:40 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight CommitteeMembers,

My name is G, I am a healthcare professional, social justice advocate, humanitarian. People leaving prison need stability, agency, and trust...

At 111 Taylor, they get control and fear. Curfews and surprise searches trigger trauma. People shut down. They leave early or violate out. That is a pipeline back to custody. Replace punishment with evidence-based care. Require licensed mental health services and trauma-informed practice.

111 Taylor only provides more trauma, and even unnecessary fatalities...

Hold GEO GROUP accountable for the traumas and fatalities they are causing, they should not be operating out of 111 Taylor.

Thank you,

G~

From: [Alex](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment re: November 6th GEO Group hearing
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 11:28:36 PM

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

The physical conditions inside 111 Taylor are well documented and deeply alarming. Numerous complaints have been filed detailing health and safety violations: unaddressed sewage leaks, pervasive mold, non-functioning elevators (trapping disabled residents upstairs), and even unpermitted, faulty electrical work that poses fire risks. One-eleven Taylor, a 2021 documentary by the Adachi Project captured the “dire conditions” in the facility – showing cramped quarters, lack of cleaning, and neglect during the first year of the pandemic. If the building were regulated as a care facility or apartment building, it would likely face citations or lawsuits. These conditions have only been allowed to continue unabated at the GEO Group facility under the guise of “group housing”, an inaccurate zoning classification that the SF Planning Dept. needs to revisit.

As a trans person, the fact that California continues to allow GEO Group-- the largest ICE contractor-- to operate in 111 Taylor, an historic queer site, is deeply upsetting. We should not allow groups that are collaborating with ICE to do business in our state, let alone in the city of San Francisco. The harms being done to people incarcerated there are unforgivable. GEO Group does not deserve another chance to ruin lives.

Thank you.

From: [Bridget Bertrand, LMFT](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: public comment - remove GEO group from 111 Taylor
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:29:09 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

I live in SOMA, and I walk or drive through the Tenderloin every week. I know that many administrations have tried to address the suffering occurring in San Francisco, especially in and around 111 Taylor. I believe this issue of a private prison multinational corporation being in our city presents an excellent opportunity to effect a profound and lasting change in the San Francisco Queer community and the global Trans community at a pivotal time!

Government money flows to GEO Group. We see broken elevators, crowding, and poor services. Where did the money go? Tie payment to outcomes that matter. Safe housing. Jobs secured—health care access. Independent audits should verify delivery before payment. If GEO Group cannot show results, stop paying them to fail.

As a mental health provider, a tax-paying citizen in California for 20 years, and as a mom of a Trans son, I am deeply hopeful we will see the change we need at 111 Taylor.

Sincerely,
Bridget Bertrand (any pronouns with love)
Expressive Arts Facilitator - Coach

<https://www.bridgetbertrand.com/>

<https://substack.com/@transformationcollectivespace>

Please pay land tax in any amount you can: <https://native-land.ca/>

From: [Molly Woodbury](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: GEO group must go
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:32:35 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Molly, a longtime San Francisco resident and taxpayer. Government money flows to GEO Group in the Tenderloin. Yet we see broken elevators, crowding, and poor services. Melvin Bulauan called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

Tie payment to outcomes that matter. Safe housing. Jobs secured. Health care access. Independent audits should verify delivery before payment. If GEO Group cannot show results, stop paying them to fail and ruin vulnerable people's lives.

Thank you for your time,
Molly W

From: [Ryan Lim](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Comment for 11/6 Audit & Oversight Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:40:24 AM

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

Regarding: Hearing on Conditions at 111 Taylor Street Facility

I implore the Board to thoroughly investigate the operation at 111 Taylor Street. I have worked in nonprofit behavioral health programs in San Francisco for the last 20 years and have firsthand dealings with GEO Group. They actively harm the residents, our city and community. I fully believe that history will harshly judge these types of for-profit "re-entry" enterprises and the people that enabled their operations. Prisoners are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, don't outsource responsibility for them to a private prison group.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan Lim
415.368.7569

From: [Chris K.](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [SherrillStaff](#); [SauterStaff](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Miyamoto, Paul \(SHF\)](#); kory.powell-mccoy@mail.house.gov
Subject: Thursday 1000 hrs Meeting Government Audit and Oversight
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 4:19:10 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this meeting as I will be at another event in which I am required to attend.

Please be mindful that events at 111 Taylor Street are monitored by FirstNet with oversight by Sheriff Paul Miyamoto.

I have previously submitted to the Board of Supervisors, concerns with three individuals, one who works as an Californian Assemblyman and the other two with the federal government, one with HHS and the other with the CDC that are impacting incidents to cause Democrats and Republicans to fight over everything, when in fact, it is just these three (there are others nationally) that are causing the issues, and they are the ones profiting by playing the fence, causing violence and contributing to deaths.

I would be willing to meet with Committee members to share additional items if so requested.

Respectfully,

Chris Ward Kline
E-5/Sgt
USMC
22 Marine Expeditionary Unit

From: [Kathy Huang](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment on November 6th Board of Supervisors Government Audit & Oversight Committee Hearing on Conditions at GEO Group's 111 Taylor Street Facility
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:50:04 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Kathy Huang, a San Franciscan resident. I am here for justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here.

Government money flows to GEO Group. We see broken elevators, crowding, and poor services. Where did the money go? Tie payment to outcomes that matter. Safe housing. Jobs secured. Health care access. Independent audits should verify delivery before payment. If GEO Group cannot show results, stop paying them to fail.

Signed,
A resident of 94103

From: [Andrew Navarro](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:58:56 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Andrew Navarro. I am here for justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

From: [Nina Friedman](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:10:29 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Nina Friedman. I am an educator at City College of San Francisco and I am here for justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

Thank you

From: [Rebecca Dun](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#)
Subject: (File No. 250792) Public Comment on 111 Taylor St Zoning – Urging Independent Review and Enforcement Reform
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:43:02 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members and Staff,

I'm writing to urge a thoughtful reconsideration of 111 Taylor St's operational classification. While you'll hear accounts of direct harm, I want to step back and ask you to consider the broader policy message our zoning sends—and how enforcement (or lack thereof) shapes the lived reality and sustainability of our city.

Zoning has always reflected political choices, not just neutral planning. Bay Area history—and works like *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein, a fellow Bay Area historian and tenured professor at UC Berkeley—make clear that zoning is an expression of whose safety, dignity, and well-being we choose to protect. It's sold as apolitical, but the outcomes are anything but accidental: when the city continues to let 111 Taylor operate as "group housing" due to grandfathered status, we're actively inscribing into law the notion that some communities can be left behind so long as it's consistent with old paperwork.

This "loophole" was meant to avoid red tape, not to sanction harm. Today, it shields substandard and, by modern definitions, unsafe living arrangements from the scrutiny any new facility would face. The result: residents, nearby families, and the surrounding Tenderloin ecosystem all absorb the cost of the city's inertia. Our "zoning values" become apparent in who gets overlooked and what risks are permitted to persist.

I know firsthand the barriers people face in advocating for safer conditions. When I filed an OSHA complaint, I did so knowing a false accusation could mean up to \$10,000 in fines and six months' imprisonment. Multiply that by the emotional and practical risks—and you see why only the gravest situations bring people forward. In practice, 111 Taylor has received multiple OSHA complaints and many other high-barrier grievances, which should be a blaring signal of urgent need.

Our community made its case at the Appeals Commission on July 16, 2025, presenting similar concerns and documentation; yet, because of the fractured way local government operates, this Board may never have received that record. Each new venue means starting from scratch—another barrier, another toll on the very people most harmed.

Against all this, GEO Group's narrative of safety and care stands in sharp conflict with reports from grassroots groups like the Compton Coalition and the direct testimony of countless residents. When there's this much daylight between official claims and lived experience, it demands heightened scrutiny, not more deference.

And while some might suggest hoping for voluntary improvement or more self-audits—

Twenty years of passive waiting in San Francisco has only sustained the problem. Delay protects no one but the status quo; every day lost is another day of harm in the Tenderloin.

In light of the committee's values and powers, I respectfully urge:

1. Commission an independent, present-day review of GEO Group's operations—no more grandfather loopholes or self-reporting.
2. Bring zoning definitions and enforcement in line with what San Francisco stands for: community health, dignity, and safety first.
3. Provide public, timely updates—a model for transparent, responsive government and safer neighborhoods.
4. Recognize, in your findings and public statements, both the cost of advocacy and the risk borne by residents, so that data and community experience together inform ongoing decisions.

Thank you for taking into account not only the facts, but the immense risk, effort, and moral urgency behind this call to action.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Dun

From: [Tess Gibbs](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment for 111 Taylor St. hearing on 11/6/25
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 12:55:43 PM

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

Hello Monique,

Please include the following public comment in the record for the Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Commission hearing scheduled for November 6, 2025 on the topic of 111 Taylor St.

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

I am a resident of San Francisco, work near 111 Taylor St, and am a queer community member who cares about my friends who have been deeply harmed by GEO Group during their incarceration at 111 Taylor St.

Safety is not produced by surveillance and fear. Safety comes from stability and resource abundance. People need case management, well-paying jobs, and safe and stable housing. GEO Group does not provide any of these in any meaningful way, and has shown that this is core to its operations -- meaning it is beyond reform. Instead, the city and county of San Francisco should invest in local organizations and community resources that do. I urge you to remove GEO Group from this site and all of the city and county of San Francisco and allow for community control of the site. Additionally, I urge you to pressure CDCR to drop contracts with GEO Group. That is how we make our streets safer.

In addition, the crossroads of Turk and Taylor Streets symbolize intersectional resistance to criminalization and harassment from police and the city. GEO Group runs a carceral program in that same building that harms people today, particularly trans women, as we see from several reports of sexual harassment, and disrespects this history. I urge you to align land use and city policy with your purported values by removing GEO Group from this site and all of the city and county. I urge you to begin the transition to a community-serving site that honors this legacy. The City should not allow harm at a landmark of freedom.

Thank you,

Tess Gibbs

From: [Olivia Madison](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Concern over GEO Group and Carcerality at 111 Taylor
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:45:25 PM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Liv (Olivia) and I am a library and archivist student with deep care and passion for the history and legacy of Compton's Cafeteria. The crossroads of Turk and Taylor Streets symbolize resistance to criminalization and repression. GEO Group runs a carceral program in that same building which harms people today and disrespects this history.

I'm emailing to demand from this hearing that land use is aligned with our values. The City should not allow harm at a landmark of freedom, please begin a transition to a community-serving location that honors the site's meaningful legacy.

Thank you,

Liv

they/she | oliviamadison4@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

Sociology Department
2130 Fulton Street
San Francisco, CA
94117
Tel 415.422.5414
Fax 415.422.5671
kdrichman@usfca.edu

May 25, 2025

Sent to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I write to convey my support for the Taylor Street Center reentry facility, so that they may continue to provide critical support for formerly incarcerated adults at their 111 Taylor St. location. As a criminologist, professor, and nonprofit director, I have had the opportunity to work in collaboration with the Taylor Street Center for well over a decade. My nonprofit Alliance for CHANGE has provided volunteers to run technical literacy classes to the Taylor street residents, assist the residents in attending their mandatory monthly lifer meetings, and my USF students have had invaluable experiences interning there.

When I first contacted the leadership at the Taylor Street Center about bringing my organization's services to the residents there, I was both surprised and thrilled at how eager they were to work with us and provide whatever support or facilities we needed in order to teach classes there. Unlike some other residential reentry centers we spoke to, 111 Taylor's leadership and staff made it incredibly easy for us to begin and maintain this collaboration, which has helped dozens if not hundreds of residents over the years learn how to use their smart phones and computers, navigate the web, and maintain digital literacy and security. When we wanted to start teaching a computer class, they set up a computer lab in the building with dedicated wifi where we could hold our classes. This has helped residents learn how to write a resume, fill out online job applications, research housing, and maintain a calendar with reminders in their smart phones so that they do not miss appointments with their parole officers.



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

Finally, I want to be clear that I am a lifelong ally to the LGBT+ community, and understand the vulnerability this community is facing with nearly daily attacks on their rights from this administration. My support for the Taylor Street Center in no way diminishes that. But I also know what devastation the formerly incarcerated community would suffer if it were to be closed down. The population they serve is among the most marginalized in our community—formerly incarcerated people who are readjusting to free life after decades in prison, almost all of them indigent, and many without another support system to rely on. If that facility were to disappear, hundreds of SF residents would suddenly become unhoused, leaving them vulnerable to violence, health problems, and recidivism. One can only imagine the impact on San Francisco’s already troubled streets.

I appreciate this board’s consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly D. Richman".

Kimberly D. Richman, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology, Criminal Justice Studies, and Legal Studies
Past President, Western Society of Criminology
kdrichman@usfca.edu



Civic
111 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA

May 26, 2025

Sent to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

Dear President Trasviña and Members of the Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Taylor Street Center (TSC), operated by The GEO Group, Inc., and to highlight its vital contributions to reentry efforts in San Francisco and across California.

Our organization, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Adult Parole, has worked directly with residents of the Taylor Street Center for the past 15 years, providing substance use support, counseling, job training, etc. Throughout this time, we have observed the transformative impact of TSC's programming on individuals transitioning from incarceration to the community. The staff at TSC are highly professional, collaborative, and deeply committed to the success of their residents. They work closely with parole, probation, and a broad network of community partners to ensure continuity of care and wraparound support.

I am writing to express support for The GEO Group, Inc. in recognition of their ongoing contributions to reentry efforts across California. Through their community-based programming, GEO has been a consistent partner in supporting individuals on parole and probation as they transition back into the community.

GEO's reentry services provide a structured, evidence-based framework that addresses critical needs such as housing support, life skills training, behavioral health services, employment readiness, and case management. Their ability to collaborate with parole agents, probation departments, and a network of community organizations has been instrumental in ensuring that participants receive the comprehensive support necessary to reduce recidivism and promote long-term success.

Importantly, GEO has demonstrated a commitment to equitable access to services, tailoring their approach to meet the needs of diverse populations, including individuals with histories of trauma, substance use disorders, and barriers to employment or housing. Their inclusive model helps foster dignity, accountability, and opportunity for all participants.

I would strongly recommend placement at Taylor Street Center for any individual seeking a supportive, structured environment for reentry. The center's presence is not only beneficial to its residents, but also critical to the safety, stability, and public health of the wider San Francisco community.

We value GEO's continued efforts to promote successful reentry and public safety through community engagement and collaboration. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information or additional context regarding their impact.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Cooks

DWAYNE COOKS
Administrator



UNITED • PLAYAZ

1038 Howard Street • San Francisco, CA 94103

www.unitedplayaz.org

May 28, 2025

To The Board of Appeals,

My name is Rudy Corpuz Jr. I am the Founder and Director of United Playaz, a violence prevention and leadership development organization committed to providing youth with positive role models and activities to engage in as an alternative to involvement with gangs, drugs or other high risk behaviors.

I am writing to express my extreme support for Taylor Street Center and to share my brief awareness of the vital work GEO continues to do in California surrounding rehabilitation and reentry services. As a personal and professional friend who worked with GEO for 8 years, I can attest firsthand the organization's commitment to helping individuals transition back into society with dignity, structure, and support throughout their careers.

We have seen them support a stable, supportive environment that helps break cycles of incarceration and empowers people to lead productive lives. That benefit extends far beyond the individual—creating safer, more cohesive communities and ultimately reducing the burden on the criminal justice system.

The Taylor Street Center stands as a strong example of GEO's mission in action. By providing structured housing, job readiness training, counseling, and accountability, TSC plays an essential role in reducing recidivism and strengthening the community. The ripple effects of effective reentry services are profound—not just for the individuals served, but for their families and neighborhoods.

Thank you for considering the importance of The Taylor Street Center and the value it brings to the community. I am confident that any projects they propose will have an immensely positive impact for the people of San Francisco.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudy Corpuz Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudy Corpuz, Founder
United Playaz
1038 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Jennifer J. James
112 Polley Lane
Pleasant Hill, California 94523
jcubedinvestigations@outlook.com

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org
John Trasvina, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No. 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To the Board of Appeals:

I am a retired Federal Probation Officer and over my 24-year career, GeoGroup's Taylor Street Center was a phenomenal resource for my clients, especially those who were reintegrating back into the community from prison. Many of my clients would have been homeless if it weren't for GeoGroup. GeoGroup was a surrogate support system for those individuals who did not otherwise have one available to them. Research has shown that without a support system in place to assist them, many offenders recidivate.

While programming (substance abuse and mental health treatment) did not take place at the facility, it did provide a structured environment with exceptional case management services, including referrals to employment and community-based medical and treatment services. It also had staff on duty 24/7. GeoGroup held a quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting which included any and all interested stakeholders from the community.

In sum, Taylor Street Center is a cornerstone of the Tenderloin community and I believe San Francisco has benefited from its existence.

Sincerely,



Jennifer James, Retired U.S. Probation Officer

TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS.

My name is ALAN BROOKS and I am writing this in support of 111 TAYLOR STREET "GEO". I was in prison for 49 years, and was released to 111 TAYLOR ST.

I was lost in a new world and had no idea of how I was going to survive. Director Philips showed me what I needed to do, and assigned person to me to take me to D.M.V. for an ID card, then to medical, to social security. The work coordinator gave me bus tokens, showed me which bus lines to take for job interviews, she sent me to inhouse class so that I could learn to use a cell phone, and basic on a computer. I was a country boy so when I got stressed by the city, the other staff, mostly meria showed me how to get to golden gate park, where

I Found peace To calm my
soul. I was so grateful For
All The help That I was given
That I decided To Be a
Volunteer To help others as
I was helped. GEO is a
Vital part of The Parole system
here in The Bay area.

I now work For The
ENVEGIAM PRISON project and
we give back To people on
Both sides of The Bars.

Thank you and best Regards
ALAN BROOKS AMBASSADOR E.P.P.
Alan Brooks

RECOVERY SURVIVAL NETWORK

Helping those who want to help themselves



Date- 6-2-2025

Re: Laborda vs Za

Appeal No. 25-021

111Taylor

To The Board of Appeals,

My name is Deborah Caruso and I presently manage a GEO program here in San Francisco for ex-offenders that provide only 18 beds. I am writing to express my strong concerns for the continued operations of 111 Taylor. You need to understand that 111 Taylor serves life changing opportunities for ex-offender that by the way have committed years of rehabilitation in prison to demonstrate their release. These individuals strive to rebuild their lives, contribute positively to their communities, and break the cycle of recidivism. Without a program like 111 Taylor to start their new life's, they'll be lost trying to navigate all the barriers that have been placed in front of them. There all coming home to a different world. With the support of the staff at 111 Taylor to help them through this very difficult and scary for them, their chances of success increases and it's a win-win for all. I've seen firsthand the effectiveness having programs like 111 Taylor has for ex-offenders. Some of the benefits of these programs are, create safer communities, reduces repeat offenders, generates economic benefits by helping individuals secure stable employment. Like I shared in the beginning of my statement, I've worked with 111 Taylor since 1988. I've seen many programs come and go. They stayed and have worked hard daily to contribute to San Francisco. They stayed with their mission statement, and they continue to provide services.

Closing this program would have devastating consequences, not only for the individuals it serves, but for our city.

.please contact me at rsn.dcaruso@gmail.com

or call me at 415-840-6204

Thank You

Deborah Caruso

Program Manager

RSN/GEO/STOP

May 30th, 2025

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I am a former participant of GEO's programs, and would like to share the importance of a center like Taylor Street when it comes to rehabilitation and reentry. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact GEO's services can have on individuals and the community. I am also living proof of this.

During my time in the program, 18 months in total, from August 2023 to February 2025, I received counseling on a one-on-one basis every week, participated in rehabilitative programs such Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Moral Reconciliation Therapy and an employment specialist that collaborated with me on my employment search. I was in turn able to obtain meaningful employment. The Moral Reconciliation Therapy enhanced the understanding of moral reasoning and has proven to show reduction in recidivism. The employment help included preparing a resume, practicing interviewing skills and the center even provided computers to do employment search. After serving a sentence of almost 11 years of straight incarceration, in less 120 days I landed a job at a solar company as an operations manager. The same company still today employs me, and I have been promoted twice.

Currently, I hold the title of Vice President of Customer Success. I find my work fulfilling and it is personally important to me because it has helped me get back on my feet, providing stability for myself and the children.

After completing the program, the GEO center for the first time in its company's history held its first graduation ceremony to honor participants for successfully completing the program. Representatives from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, US Probation Office, local lawmakers, and family members all participated to honor us the participants. It was very fulfilling and rewarding to reflect and see how far we had come after making a mistake and knowing that programs like these are here to help us get back into society. I was honored to be part of this first ever group and my understanding is now that it is going to be adopted by the rest of the GEO facilities.

I believe reentry services like those provided at the Taylor Street Center are essential for the community at large. By supporting individuals in their transition back into society, these programs contribute to reducing recidivism, strengthening families, and creating a safer community. The resources and support offered can help people build productive lives, find employment, and become contributing members of society, benefiting everyone.

Sincerely,

Vincent T. Singh

925-406-6314

Vincesingh081723@outlook.com

5/27/25

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I have worked in the reentry criminal justice field for the last 5 decades, retiring in 2017 to provide volunteer consulting to keep our communities safe with prevention and comprehensive reentry programs for men and women coming out of prison.

In 1989, I was managing a halfway house for men and women returning to San Francisco. The October earthquake destroyed our building, and I immediately set out to find an alternative location for our clients. As I drove by 111 Taylor Street there were banners hanging out the window saying "Now Renting". I went inside and said I would take the entire building, and they were thrilled. We went through the proper planning department and zoning requirements, met with neighbors, and assured them that we would always be a contributing member of the neighborhood and work to support the success of not only our clients, but also help meet the neighborhood needs. We ultimately received approval and moved into the building.

111 Taylor has been a successful residential reentry program for both Federal and State clients for 36 years. To my knowledge while I worked there, and as a community advisory board member for GEO for years, there have never been any complaints about the clients disrupting or causing any problems in the neighborhood. As a matter of fact, the GEO clients have contributed to the neighborhood with beautification projects monthly with City clean. Additionally, the very presence of the reentry program on Taylor Street has contributed to the immediate neighborhood not succumbing to the problems in other parts of the Tenderloin and around the City. Those suffering from addiction and mental health issues know the Taylor street program is serious business and they would not hinder the success of the clients there by hanging around with drugs and other paraphernalia. In research produced by the International Community Justice Association it was clearly demonstrated that neighborhoods around Reentry programs in numerous neighborhoods throughout the country, made those neighborhoods safer.

Lastly, San Francisco has hundreds of men and women returning from state and federal prisons every year. It is absolutely essential for good public safety in our community, that returning

citizens receive the desperately needed life skills, employment prep, education, access to community mental health and community addiction treatment if they need these service .

To NOT provide those services would absolutely result in increased danger to San Francisco citizens. No one wants that, and we KNOW that the GEO program works. Their outcomes, and those of their predecessors, have demonstrated this for the last 36 years. I implore you to ensure that GEO is allowed to continue to provide critically needed services to the returning reentry population. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Connelly
President/CEO

To whom this may concern,

The GEO Group is an organization who believes in rehabilitation and growth. There is an endless amount of support that they offer. Some that are even greater than our own capacity. For example, housing. Anyone who completes the program and does have a home to go home to there is an organization who is connected to GEO to help with first/last month rent and donate furniture. As a community clinic who offers housing services, we do not have anything that is equivalent to this. This type of housing the GEO offers is an amazing opportunity that I wish Bayview had. Alongside that there are numerous organizations who are connected just to help those get back on their feet such as, Dolan Mental Health, Five Keys for employment opportunities. Playas United, help give back to the community, and of course Bayview for all medical and Dental needs.

One subject that I am confident of presenting is that the GEO Group cares about their residents receiving medical treatment. One instance that has stuck with me is a resident who is part of the LGBT community needed help with her intravitreal injecting. The team moved fast to contact me to get her scheduled. Any time a resident has a medical situation, we all work together and fast so that the patient has the opportunity to see their PCP to go over any urgent matter. I am very honored to not only work with the residents, but such an amazing organization such as GEO.

Sincerely,

Sayda Perez | Case Manager

Marin City Health and Wellness Center

Oakland Location	600 Grand Ave, Ste 306, Oakland, CA 94610	Phone (510) 287-8491 Fax 888.777.4317
San Francisco Location	1447 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94133	Phone (415) 814-2774 Fax 888.777.4317
San Diego Location	995 Gateway Center Way #302 San Diego, CA 92102	Phone (619) 230-5799 Fax 888.777.4317
Riverside Location	4035 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501	Phone (951) 530-8671 Fax 888.777.4317
Florence, SC Location	205 N. Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501	Phone (843) 799-5044 Fax 888.777.4317
Greenville, SC Location	157 Commons Way, Greenville, SC 29611	Phone (864) 520-1547 Fax 888.777.4317
Broward Location	2300 E Oakland Park Blvd Ste 201, Fort Laud, FL 33301	Phone (954) 564-9390 Fax 888.777.4317
Palm Beach Location	3951 N. Haverhill Rd. Ste 218, West Palm Beach, FL 33413	Phone (561) 471-3285 Fax 888.777.4317
Hillsborough Location	6105C Memorial Hwy, Tampa, FL 33615	Phone (813) 882-0200 Fax 888.777.4317
Fort Myers Location	3049 Cleveland Ave., Ste 130, Fort Myers, FL 33901	Phone (813) 882-0200 Fax 888.777.4317

05/29/2025

To whom it may concern,

It has been our pleasure to work with GEO Group, Inc and its Residential Re-entry Program for over 12 years. Dolan Mental Health offers Mental Health Counseling, Substance Use Counseling, Psychiatric Services, and MAT Services to those who are re-entering the community. GEO Group, Inc. is an anchor in the community having operated their program for many decades. As a fellow community based organization in San Francisco, we see the benefit of the work that goes into assisting people to successfully re-enter their communities.

It is important to understand the beauty of successful residential re-entry programs, like GEO Group, Inc. is that participants receive a host of support services to ensure the success of the participant - to include, but not limited to, counseling, re-entry planning, financial literacy, family reunification/parenting classes, etc. Furthermore, GEO Group, Inc.'s programs emphasize accountability and promote opportunity to work to earn income, re-unify with family members, learn pro-social ways of communicating with others within the community, etc.

GEO Group, Inc. is an expert at identifying the needs of the participants and working with area agencies /organizations with the exact kind of programming to meet their array of needs. We applaud GEO Group, Inc. for its collaborative approach and commitment to continuing to work with the community to help ensure the success of persons re-unifying with family and re-entering the community.

We fully support GEO Group, Inc. and it's residential reentry program for it's demonstrated ability to change lives and help the community. We congratulate it's success and look forward to our continuing relationship.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Dolan
Licensed Psychotherapist

May 29, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475

San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the Taylor Street Center (TSC), a critical reentry facility that has long stood as a beacon of stability, rehabilitation, and opportunity for individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

As a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with nearly a decade of experience working with Dolan Mental Health, I have partnered closely with TSC in my role as a contracted provider through the Federal Bureau of Prisons and, previously, the U.S. Probation Department. Our work includes delivering mental health care, substance use counseling, and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to residents of TSC. Through this partnership, I have gained a deep appreciation for the structured and compassionate environment the Center provides.

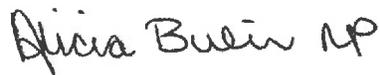
Taylor Street Center serves an especially vulnerable and diverse population—individuals returning from federal and state incarceration, many of whom face significant barriers to reentry. The most marginalized subpopulations include older adults, military veterans, people from the LGBTQ+ community, individuals with sex offense convictions, and those without stable housing or family support. Many come from jurisdictions lacking dedicated reentry facilities, and TSC offers them an equal and much-needed opportunity to stabilize, access services, and build a foundation for successful reintegration.

The work TSC does is essential. It provides far more than just housing—it delivers a full continuum of care and transitional programming that equips residents with the tools and support they need to reclaim their lives with dignity and purpose. The importance of this structured setting cannot be overstated. Clients we have treated through TSC consistently demonstrate improved behavioral health outcomes, increased engagement in treatment, and greater readiness for independent living.

I have the utmost confidence in the quality of services GEO delivers at Taylor Street. Their professional staff is responsive, well-trained, and dedicated to the rehabilitation and empowerment of every resident. Their programming meets a critical public need while promoting safety, equity, and recovery.

The loss of this facility would create a profound gap in the reentry infrastructure, not just in San Francisco, but in the broader region it serves. I urge the Board to safeguard the future of the Taylor Street Center by formally recognizing its indispensable role in public safety, rehabilitation, and community reintegration—its closure would not only disrupt essential services but also abandon the very individuals our justice and healthcare systems are meant to support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Bulin NP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia Bulin MSN, PMHNP
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
aliciabulin@dolanmh.com
(562)489-9470



Phatt Chance Community Services, Inc.
2443 Fillmore Street #216
San Francisco, CA 94115

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is George Turner, and I am writing this letter in support of the post-release housing opportunities available at the Taylor Street Center San Francisco. Phatt Chance Community Services, Inc., (PCCS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing clean and sober housing and reintegration services to individuals in the Bay Area. Our clients include formerly incarcerated men, veterans, and those with mental health diagnoses without alternative housing or support.

I have been working with Taylor Street Center (TSC) residents and staff since 2009, when we first opened the doors of PCCS. Since then, we have received many letters and phone calls from incarcerated clients who are seeking housing transitional housing post-release but who are not able to afford our self-payer housing model. For residents who are still struggling to establish basic stability, sudden financial responsibilities can be significant stressor impeding their reentry process. Therefore, a more structured and fully funded program is better suited for their immediate needs post-release. Fortunately, the Taylor Street Center is just that. TSC provides a safety net by combining transitional housing option and reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals who would otherwise not be able to be released or would end up homeless due to lack of resources.

TSC has been a valued partner in our work where we can refer clients in desperate need of assistance that cannot be provided by our program. Therefore, TSC provides a valuable community service and contributes greatly to the public safety in our city.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about this letter of support.

George Ray Turner, MA
Executive Director
Email: phattchancecommunity@gmail.com

John Travvina, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To the Board of Appeals:

I, Adriel Ramirez, of right state of mind without any influence or coercion to write the following statement.

I lived at GEO from February 6, 2023, to August 6, 2023. During my stay there I was treated with respect from both staff and residents. As a trans female it is hard living here in San Francisco when you do not have a full support from your own community. But my treatment at GEO was equal to everyone else at the program. We were fed well, no rotten food or any trace of maggots. It met our dietary needs for medical and religious meals.

I was given a case manager to help me find resources that I needed and an employment case manager that helped me get employment and to save money, so upon my release from the program they would return the money I have saved.

Higher ups made sure that staff addressed all trans females that lived at 111 Taylor with the proper pronouns.

I am all for returning a landmark to its proper place but **NOT** at the cost of displacing those that live at the program. And by giving a false report of GEO is wrong also. There are better solutions to obtaining the objective. One just must find it.

Best regards,



Adriel Ramirez

[6/3/2025]

[Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org](mailto:boardofappeals@sfgov.org)

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I been dealing with the Geo Reentry since 2006 when my dad Chris Carpenter was a resident at 111 Taylor Street, he completed the program successfully with getting into a Carpenter program. After the program, Chris opened a janitorial business and was able to provide more for his family like for things like putting me through college. As I went to school and work to get where I am today a current GEO employee at 111 Taylor Street as BOP case manager. I am happy to help with reentry services because I was one of those kids waiting to spend time with his/her dad on their social pass. So, helping family reunited to rebuild bounds is something I enjoy doing. I been working at Geo since July 2023 I started as a Security monitor got promoted to a job developer in December 2023 and became BOP case manager May 2024. Geo means a lot more to the community then people think, Geo is giving people a fresh start at life with support of find jobs and housing and support with any additional services they may need to be successful.

Jerroyn Collins
BOP Case Manager
Jerroyn.collins@geogroup.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerroyn Collins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

To the Board of Appeals,

My name is Michael Perez. I am a Deputy Director for Urban Alchemy, a nonprofit that serves communities impacted by poverty, violence, and incarceration. I am also a Long-Term Offender (LTO) who was incarcerated for 25 years. Upon my release, I was placed at GEO Reentry Services – Taylor Street Center in San Francisco, a city I had never lived in before.

Reentering society after such a long time in prison was one of the most difficult challenges I have ever faced. I encountered countless barriers that most people take for granted—obtaining a driver's license, social security card, birth certificate, opening a bank account, finding a job, and reconnecting with my family. I also had to navigate a complex network of mandated reentry programs, including Anger Management, Parenting, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, and Financial Guidance. Each step forward came with anxiety and uncertainty.

What made the difference for me—and what makes the difference for thousands of others—was the support I received from GEO and people like Chenoa Nishida. Chenoa didn't just help me find a job; she helped me believe in the possibility of a new life. She offered guidance, encouragement, and access to resources that empowered me to rebuild my identity, my career, and my purpose.

Thanks to the stability and structure GEO provided, I was able to re-enter the workforce with dignity. Today, I am proud to hold a leadership position at Urban Alchemy. I now mentor others who are facing the same struggles I once did. My story is not unique—it is one of many that demonstrate the real and lasting impact of GEO's work in our community.

San Francisco's Second Chance Ordinance, coupled with programs like GEO, gives returning citizens the tools and hope they need to succeed. GEO is not just transitional housing; it is a bridge to transformation. Shutting it down would be a disservice to the countless lives that depend on it for stability, growth, and healing.

I urge you to consider the invaluable role GEO plays in the reentry process. It was the foundation for my success, and for so many others like me.

Let's keep GEO open.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

With deep gratitude,

Michael Perez

Deputy Director

Urban Alchemy

To the board of appeals:

Hello, my name is Jessie Palmer and I was a resident at GEO Reentry facility from 5-16-2023 until 4-1-2024. I was mandated by the state after serving 25 years of incarceration to stay 6 months; however, GEO Reentry allows for up to an additional 6 months' stay afterwards if one chooses to do so. I chose to stay an additional 5 months because it made sense for several different reasons. I was given a safe place to stay in a very highly stimulated environment. I was given the opportunity to participate in group and individual therapy to address specific needs. I will not brag about the meals, but they are free and they make accommodations for different kinds of dietary restrictions and tenants with varying schedules. There was an exercise room as well as a computer lab, a library as well as several rooms with television for entertainment. They also provide a savings account that provided me with the check of my full balance on the day of my departure. I've learned so many transitional skills personally through the job developer; she really pointed me in the right direction. I've been fortunate to have my own apartment and job on a path between the two because every time I see it, I hold a moment of gratitude for it in my path and I think of all the men in that building, some home from after decades of incarceration, and all the possibilities are at their disposal because of where they are at 111 Taylor. So yes, I am definitely in favor.

LETS KEEP GEO OPEN!

Sincerely,
Jessie Palmer, former GEO resident.

5/28/2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475

San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is Brian Shepperd, and I was incarcerated for nearly 30 years. I was a life-term prisoner who entered the CDCR at 16 years old and exited just shy of my 46th birthday. To say that my decision making skills were questionable would be a severe understatement. However, choosing to straighten out my life, to repurpose my core values to reflect my positive intentions, and choosing to transfer what was previously an anti-social skill set into a much more beneficial pro-social tool kit are among some of the best choices that I have made thus far. Chief among those better choices, was making GEO at 111 Taylor my re-entry place for a successful transition out of prison.

When I paroled in September 2020, I genuinely had no idea what to expect. Aside from being elated for my first-time freedom, I was more overwhelmed by sensory overload. Thankfully, I had the wonderful care of case managers at GEO to help me navigate the obstacles that I faced, for example, opening a bank account, learning how to budget and spend wisely, and building a resume from what essentially was a blank slate. Being originally from Inglewood, California, a Los Angeles county suburb, it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that I felt out of place in a fast-paced city like San Francisco, with tech knowledge that was 30 years behind. Again, it was the support and encouragement of amazing people like Chenoah N., Tonia A., and Pam O., who consistently helped me feel relevant, who never lost their patience with me when I couldn't remember how to turn on my new smart phone, and who went above and beyond to prepare me for career employment, not only job readiness.

The re-entry program at 111 Taylor is very much needed for people like me. With so few organizations that actually provide comprehensive support services for returning citizens, I believe that it would be a detriment to our ever-transitioning city to take away the very best that we have in the Bay Area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peacefully,

Brian Shepperd

Brian Shepperd



June 1, 2025

boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I've personally been working part of the 111 Taylor Street Center, (TSC) ecosystem with Maria Richard and her team when COVID-19 commenced and the Founder, Mr. Terry Anders, from Anders and Anders Foundation where I started has been working with Maria Richard and the TSC team for over 25 years.

The TSC is only Northern California Center where they house approximately 200 individuals ready to re-enter back into the community. There isn't any other center in California with such capacity and with an extensive ecosystem comprised of several community based organizations to support our special population and depend on the TSC's population who are served and separately funded for reentry. Without the TSC's services along with the local Community Based Organizations, (CBO's), would *increase recidivism* as it takes a team of organizations to support an individual's needs.

I'm personally focused on reducing recidivism and following our candidates from the TSC out of the justice system. When under the Anders and Anders Foundation, (A&AF) umbrella, I started working with several key individuals within the TSC ranging from Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, (CDCR) where we also have an extensive network and Maria Richard, the Facility Director, who has responded to requests well after hours, nights, weekends and holidays. The level of communications has always been above par from everyone, specially when addressing an individual's specific needs.

Under A&AF, as an Associate Executive Director, we provided barrier removal services leading to enrollment under the Office of Economic Workforce Development for various training programs to include: Construction leading to various union positions, Healthcare, Transportation, Technology, Hospitality, Security and enrolling individuals in the City's Dream Keeper Program. In addition, we worked in liaison with Mission Hiring Hall for transitional and permanent employment. With Ascend & Achieve, a new organization, we do all of the above and in addition, we are part of the City and Country of San Francisco Public Defenders ecosystem working with jails number 2 and number 3 and supporting



individuals upon their release. We also advocate for individuals who want to pursue a college education to apply at City College, SF State University, University of San Francisco and other specialty colleges or trade schools to meet their specific needs. At Ascend and Achieve, we activate empowerment with knowledge in order for our candidates to be successful citizens who are gainfully employed and paying taxes in San Francisco the remaining of their lives. A move towards change after several years of operations and closing would negate Major Lurie's goal of growing existing businesses and having them flourish in this city and would void those consistent revenues for years to our beautiful city.

I'm advocating for future residents to have an incredible opportunity where the TSC serves as a model for other locations through out the country. The success rate I have personally experienced with candidates is above 95% as there isn't such an extensive eco-system for getting out and staying out here in California and can say, I've not found another TSC in the USA with what is offered in San Francisco.

Changing the status quo for TSC would mean 200+ individuals (perhaps more annually) ready for release would mean higher costly incarceration rates at a Federal, State and Local level, increase recidivism, limiting the resources highly needed for this special population and most of all, having the human treatment our city offers like no other in California. I can attest to the fact, San Francisco offers a variety of educational programs in various industries, outstanding physical and mental health support, Drug & Alcohol support, essential barrier removals and many other areas highly needed by our clients. The ecosystem infrastructure would be rather *difficult to replicate* anywhere else with the necessary resources to treat a human as a human. It would also disrupt the upcoming funding for my newly developed organization as well as the funding for other local CBO's who service this special population.

Please do not give up on giving this special population who are indigent and underserved an opportunity of a lifetime offered here at TSC-San Francisco to change and improve their lives. Feel free to reach out to me at any time to further detailed discussions the value of TSC in our community, a gateway opening doors for individuals as well as the local CBO's.

With gratitude,

Maria Vazquez

Maria Vazquez

Founder, Executive Director

415-310-8667

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To: The Board of Appeals:

My name is Christine Butera-Ortiz, and I am a retired U.S. Probation Officer/Treatment Specialist, for the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of California. My tenure as a USPO began in 1993, until my retirement in January, 2014. Over the course of my 20 year career I helped facilitate the procurement and monitor treatment programs throughout our district to ensure that federal offenders were offered quality treatment resources as they re-integrated back into their communities. This re-integration commenced several months prior to their actual release, and often involved a period of housing at the Taylor Street Center (TSC), at 111 Taylor Street, in San Francisco, California. Though no program is perfect, TSC has and continues to offer formerly incarcerated individuals with a safe and monitored space to begin their journey home. I cannot count the number of individuals I supervised who successfully completed supervision with the help of the many resources offered during their stay at TSC. The collaboration between probation and TSC staff was strong, and the residents were able to obtain necessary documents from identification/driver's license cards, to educational and vocational support. In addition to basic needs such as housing, food, etc., substance abuse and mental health services were also made available to those in need. One of my most vivid recollections of the value of the services offered at TSC, was the Mother and Infant program offered to incarcerated women who gave birth during their incarceration, which allowed them a three month bonding period with their child. I also recall one individual who completed a 25 year prison term, and was well supported in the community through his transition from incarceration to TSC, before accepting an adjunct faculty position at San Francisco State College.

Separate from the numerous services provided by TSC, is the fact that without this facility, numerous federal offenders would not have an opportunity to adequately prepare for transition back to their communities, which not only includes the entire NDCA, but also neighboring districts such as the Eastern District of California and Hawaii on occasion.

In closing I would like to note that establishing and maintaining a site for federal offenders to prepare for release, in some cases after decades of incarceration, is essential for their success which is ultimately the goal of our criminal justice system. TSC has been a long standing, integrative part of this process, and I urge you to consider the important part it plays in the rehabilitation process of those striving to be successful members of society.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Butera-Ortiz
707-235-7553
Cabo13@icloud.com

May 28, 2025

Sent to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

[49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475](#)

[San Francisco, CA 94103](#)

Re: Laborda vs. ZA

Appeal No.: 25-021

Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals,

I am writing to express my support for the continued operation of the Taylor Street Center and the valuable reentry work GEO does throughout California. As someone who has personally benefited from transitional housing and reentry services after a long period of incarceration, I can speak directly to how critical programs like those at Taylor Street Center are for people reentering society.

When I was released, the structured environment provided by transitional housing helped me stabilize my life and gave me a foundation to rebuild. Through GEO's reentry programming, I gained access to case management, job readiness support, and life skills training. These resources helped me reconnect with a sense of purpose and gave me the tools I needed to succeed in society. The structured routine, community support, and staff guidance made the difference between surviving and truly thriving post-incarceration.

One of the key turning points in my reentry journey was securing employment. I began working for Transdev as a paratransit driver, a role that allowed me to serve members of the community with mobility challenges. Over time, I was promoted to a Safety Supervisor position. That role deepened

my understanding of responsibility, leadership, and care for others—values I developed and strengthened through my reentry experience.

I also had the opportunity to work with Bonafide, an organization that supports individuals returning from incarceration. I started as an Office Assistant and later advanced to the role of Critical Adventure Leader. In this position, I helped others in their own reentry journeys by leading therapeutic outdoor experiences designed to build confidence, trust, and community. These roles have not only been fulfilling professionally, but also deeply personal and meaningful. They allow me to give back to the very system that helped me turn my life around.

The work done at Taylor Street Center is not just beneficial for its participants—it benefits the entire community. By helping individuals reintegrate with dignity and structure, it reduces recidivism, strengthens public safety, and builds a more compassionate and inclusive society.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I strongly urge you to support the continued presence and work of the Taylor Street Center.

Sincerely,


Katherine Belflower

Critical Adventure Leader

k.a.belflower@gmail.com

(806) 683-4313

June 2nd, 2025

[Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org](mailto:boardofappeals@sfgov.org)

John Trasvina, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I joined Taylor Street Center of GEO about 4 years ago. I loved my job because it gives me opportunity to be great help to San Fransico community.

I have worked and see the joy it takes us to partner with our residents to be successful and safely return to their different destinations as better and changed individuals.

Taylor Street Center is a healing ground for residents and even their families. It gives me so much joy to be part of this great revolution. I am a better thinker, resourceful and more emphatic because of this noble center.

Thanks for giving us a chance to build a stronger and better society.

Yours faithfully,


Ekwenuya Stephen Uche

5/29/25

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

The Warfield has been across the street from Taylor Street Center for many years. We have had a good relationship supporting the neighborhood and Taylor Street Center. They provide support to local businesses to keep our revenues up. They always clean up the streets and keep the area beautiful at all times for people that visit this neighborhood in the city. The services they provide help support incarcerated individuals get home.



Sam Patel
Warfield Hotel
118 Taylor Street San Francisco, CA. 94102

June 2nd, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasvina, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475

San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I joined Taylor Street Center of GEO about 4 years ago. I came from a background where I feel that ex-convicts don't need to go back to society. I feel that nothing good can be achieved by helping and nurturing them.

My orientation and strong belief changed as soon as i got here. I have come to realize that everyone needs a second or even a third chance to rediscover and be a better citizen.

I have worked and see the joy it takes us to partner with our residents to be successful and safely return to their different destinations as reformed and repackaged individuals.

Taylor Street Center is a healing and sustainable ground for the residents. It gives me so much joy to be part of this great revolution. I am a better thinker, resourceful and more emphatic because of this noble center.

Thanks for giving us a chance to build a stronger and better society.

Yours faithfully,
Ekwenuya Stephen Uche

Fw: Letter

From Maria Richard <mnrichard@geogroup.com>

Date Fri 5/30/2025 7:39 PM

To Mollyrose Graves <mgraves@geogroup.com>; Emanuel Barr <ebarr@geogroup.com>

Cc Steven Farugie <sfarugie@geogroup.com>

To Board of appeal-

I Shamyra Taylor, have been employed with Geo Reentry for almost 3 years. I started as a security monitor then promoted to a BOP Case Manager and now the CDCR Case Manager Supervisor for the Long Term Offender Program. I find the Taylor Street Center to be an addition to the San Francisco community. Taylor street allows individuals who have spent sometimes over thirty years to reintegrate back into the community. Sometimes individuals come to us not knowing how to operate a cell phone, computer, prepare for an interview or write a resume. The Taylor Street Center offers individuals a temporary home for those who don't have any housing or family to return to. At the Taylor Street Center we provide individuals with resources for employment, housing, medical, clothing, education and list goes on. At the Taylor Street Center there are rules and structure which is needed for the Safety of Residents and Staff. Taylor street is a step

closer to returning home with the opportunity to gain tools to successfully transition back into the community.

Shamyra Taylor
CDCR CASE MANAGER SUPERVISOR

The GEO Group, Inc.®
111 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Tel: [415-346-9769](tel:415-346-9769) Ext 77434 • Fax: [415-346-0358](tel:415-346-0358)

shamyra.taylor@geogroup.com

www.geogroup.com

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John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

5/27/25

To The Board of Appeals:

I had the privilege to work for the Taylor St Center for 10 years. During this time ,I observed first had the operations and the care the staff an company provided to the participants of the Center.

The Director has worked at Taylor St Center for over 25 years and has more dedication and compassion for serving the population than you could imagine.

The Program has developed solid relationship within the community to network for job readiness, training, education, connect with medical service and family services. The program is vital to providing these types of services to the individuals returning from incarceration. This would not be possible with out the services the program provides to both CDCR and Bop. There would not be a replacement for these types of services. Many people would release directly to the street with no jobs, or housing and no ability to reintegrate with the support needed. This would have a deep effect on SF County and the individuals who are our returning citizens .

Sincerely

Daionne Washington

05/28/2025.

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my strong support for the GEO Reentry Services at the Taylor Street Center. As an employee of the GEO Group, I can personally attest to the numerous positive contributions that the Taylor Street Center has made to the Bay Area community. These contributions encompass employment support services for the unemployed, housing for the homeless, family reunification efforts, health service referrals, and assistance for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, as well as opportunities for personal development and growth among staff.

My role as a security monitor at the Taylor Street Center in 2010 was more than just a job; it was an opportunity to demonstrate compassion and empathy toward program participants. Many had experienced extended periods of incarceration and lacked adequate support for reintegrating into society. This experience underscored the essential need for reintegration support and the profound positive impact it can have on both individuals and the community at large. As an employment placement specialist, I had the privilege of expanding the employment resources available to participants. Community providers played a vital role, engaging in our weekly employment workshops. This collaboration with the San Francisco community instilled hope by offering job training and employment opportunities to our participants.

The Taylor Street Center also provided training opportunities for staff, which were important for professional development and growth. I was fortunate enough to become a Case Manager, where I was able to provide case management services to the participants. Working collaboratively, we were able to establish both short-term and long-term goals for them.

I will always consider myself part of the Taylor Street family. My eight years of employment at Taylor Street were incredibly rewarding, and several hundred of the participants are now responsible members of the community.

The Taylor Street Center should be allowed to continue providing the critical services that are most needed in our community. We are proud of what we do, providing second chance opportunities to those in need. We change lives.

Thank You.

Fidelis Ogburn
Facility Director,
Oakland Center.
Geo Reentry Services



205 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94610

May 29, 2025

Sent to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasvifa, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my support for the continued operation of the Taylor Street Center, operated by GEO, and to share my perspective on its value to our community here in San Francisco.

As a current Home Confinement Specialist/Acting Case Manager working in corrections and rehabilitation, I've witnessed the critical role that transitional reentry programs play in helping justice-involved individuals get back on their feet. At GEO's Taylor Street Center, our team provides essential services such as job readiness support, mental health stability, housing assistance, and overall life restructuring.

The number of participants alone reflects just how essential these services are. We've helped over 300 individuals successfully transition out of our facility—people who otherwise may have lacked the resources and guidance to find stability, employment, or even a safe place to live. Without programs like those offered at Taylor Street Center, many of these individuals could fall through the cracks, potentially returning to cycles of incarceration, homelessness, or mental health crises.

This work is not only professionally fulfilling for me but also personally important. I believe deeply in second chances and community-based solutions to reintegration. The Taylor Street Center represents one of the few places where structure, accountability, and compassionate care come together to provide real change.

I respectfully urge the Board to recognize the positive outcomes and long-term community benefits created by GEO's work at 111 Taylor Street and to support its continued operation.



Sincerely,
Lucena Baoanan Esperanza
Home Confinement Specialist / Acting Case Manager
GEO Reentry Services - Taylor Street Center
415-346-9769

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is Chenoa Nishida and I am currently employed with GEO Reentry Services-Taylor Street Ctr at 111 Taylor St, San Francisco, CA.

I have been with GEO as a Job Developer for eight years now. During my time here I have been rewarded by the residents who have paroled here and who have successfully left the program with a journey of a new life ahead of them.

We have helped thousands of paroled residents rebuild their lives. They were able to obtain employment due to San Franciscos 2nd chance ordinance and resources that I was able to provide them.

They learned time mgmt. as well as money mgmt.

While in the program they were able to establish their very 1st bank account, achieve credit, as well as getting their very 1st apartment. And the best part of my job is when I see them leave with a smile on their faces with pride because they have accomplished something of value that will aid them in their new journey.

LET'S KEEP GEO OPEN!!!

Thank for time and consideration,

Chenoa Nishida

[05/30/25]

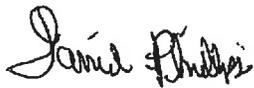
Re: Laborda vs. ZA

Appeal No.: 25-021

Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To the Board of Appeals:

As an employee of the GEO Group for the past 11 years, I have worked in facilities all over the United States and now at the 111 Taylor Street Center. In 2022, I stepped away from the company for personal reasons, but I found the need/desire to return and once again be part of a great company like the Geo Group. I have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Geo Group has on the communities they serve. The Geo Group offers re-entry services to individuals that are coming back into society and need guidance to become successful in their re-entry efforts. These services include Job Development, Case Management, re-entry education, and access to the vast number of resources located in the community. I have had the privilege of working with all members of society during my employment with the Geo Group, and each group is always afforded the same rights/privileges and amount of respect as everyone else. In all of my previous positions as well as my current role, I witness the benefits of what Geo Group offers society. For example, I see individuals that walk through TSC doors for initial intake and have little to no means of support with no job or idea of how society works. That type of atmosphere makes them frustrated. Then as they enter the program, they become more and more patient and begin to learn the social skills that are necessary to thrive in society. After participating in the TSC program the individuals obtain employment and secure their own apartments and through that, a sense of dignity is restored in them and once again become productive members of society. That is the sole reason why individuals such as me pursue careers in Social Sciences-the ability to help others and help society in general. This type of environment at TSC is conducive to what is needed to assist our individuals returning to society.



Sincerely,

Daniel Phillips
CDCR Program Manager
The GEO Group, Inc.*
111 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415)-346-9769 ext 77430

May 28, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA Appeal No.: 25-021 Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals:

I am writing in strong support of the Taylor Street Center in San Francisco, California. As a Senior Area Manager for the Western Region at Geo Reentry, I have had the privilege of working closely with the exceptionally talented and dedicated staff at this vital facility.

Organizations that provide comprehensive support services to individuals impacted by the justice system are absolutely essential for successful community reintegration. As a California native with over 25 years of experience in correctional services and reentry programs, I have observed numerous approaches to addressing these complex challenges. I can state with confidence that the Taylor Street Center represents the gold standard in quality service delivery.

The services provided by the Taylor Street Center serve multiple critical functions:

- They strengthen family units by helping returning citizens rebuild relationships and establish stability
- They create safer communities by assisting individuals with social responsibility that reduces recidivism
- They provide essential wraparound services, including housing assistance, employment preparation, community linkage to mental health support, and substance abuse treatment
- They offer a structured, supportive environment during the critical transition period from incarceration to community life

My professional experience has shown me that without these types of comprehensive interventions, we risk displacing a vulnerable population without adequate support systems. This displacement often leads to increased homelessness, higher recidivism rates, and ultimately less safe communities for all San Francisco residents.

The Taylor Street Center fills a crucial gap in our continuum of care and represents a proven investment in public safety and community wellness. I respectfully urge the Board to consider the significant positive impact this facility has on both the individuals it serves and the broader San Francisco community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Steven Farugie

Steven Farugie
Senior Area Manager, Western Region
Geo Reentry

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

May 29, 2025

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I serve as the Social Services Coordinator for GEO Group at Taylor Street Residential Reentry Center (RRC). Last week I celebrated three years of employment at the RRC and have directly supported over 400 people to transition successfully from prison to society.

Taylor Street RRC is an effective program that utilizes evidence-based practices and programs to support inmates and other justice-involved citizens. I enjoy using my talents and skills to work with a team of people to provide safety, care, and support to Residents as they find employment, gain access to housing, and face other challenges.

In my role as Social Services Coordinator (SSC), I meet with every Bureau of Prison program participant who comes to the RRC. Also, I network with community partners to address the mental health and medical care needs of our Residents.

As SSC, I work with transgender persons in the BOP system at Taylor Street RRC to build a team of support around them. I meet with transgender persons regularly, ensure they are treated well (e.g., direct Staff to use appropriate pronouns), and connect them to the LGBT Center and other community resources in San Francisco.

It is a pleasure to work at Taylor Street Residential Reentry Center. We provide a valuable service to justice-involved citizens as we prepare them to reunite with their families and loved ones. Taylor Street RRC contributes a lot to the community. For example, Residents perform valuable community service and address employment needs in San Francisco.

Thank you for your time, effort, and consideration.

Regards,

Demetrius Semien, M.Div., Ph.D.
Social Services Coordinator
Demetrius.semien@geogroup.com
415-346-9769, ext. 77422

May 29, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I understand recent events are taking place concerning the Taylor Street Center and the activism that is being displayed by the LGBTQ+ community. Although the LGBTQ+ activists believe that GEO's use of the building to be unsuitable, as an employee of GEO and an LGBTQ+ member myself, I disagree. I believe the work that GEO is doing with an underserved rehabilitation and reentry population is beneficial to the community.

I have been working with GEO for three years. In April of 2022, I was hired on at GEO's Monterey County Day Reporting Center as a Behavior Change Manager, using Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) to help facilitate Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) with participants who are on probation or parole supervision. I was able to promote to a Supervising Case Manager in April of 2023, and I have recently accepted a position as the Program Manager for the Secure Youth Track Facility at the Monterey County Juvenile Hall, where GEO will begin programming with the youth.

GEO's values are what have led to my commitment to growth in the company. At GEO, we believe that is our responsibility to support the work of our public sector partners and enhance the lives of our program participants. Through my work with GEO, I have had a hand in helping the individuals in my community who are often overlooked and underserved. The work I've done has not only been fulfilling career-wise, but also personal, as it has given me a sense of purpose.

I've had many participants give their thanks to GEO, and the work we do, stating that without the program's assistance, they wouldn't be as successful as they are - able to complete their supervision, rebuild bonds with family, and gain the skills necessary to stay on track and overcome their barriers.

Not only does the work that we at GEO do affect the people it serves, but also the community. By EBP and CBT programming, we are able to have a hand in recidivism reduction. Our participants are our neighbors, co-workers, family members, or employees. Displacing the Taylor Street Center would have a negative impact on the community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Carrasco
Program Manager

May 28, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475

San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

It has come to my attention, as a current employee of the GEO Group, that there is a move to try and change the zoning of our Taylor Street facility so that the reentry services facilitated at this location would no longer be provided. To no longer provide services to the reentry participants housed at this facility would be a devastating blow not only to the communities they serve, in and around San Francisco, but also to the participants who would no longer have the necessary support to successfully reenter the community as pro-social members of society. The Taylor Street facility is not just a place of shelter for individuals post-release, but so much more, it is a safe, non-judgmental place for an often profiled, overlooked, and mistreated population that much of society has given up on.

I have worked for the GEO Group for over 12 years. I began as an intern, and instantly knew that I was where I wanted to stay. Working for GEO, I found my home. I soon promoted to a Behavior Change Manager (BCM), then a Jail Education Employment Coordinator, where I was able to work in-custody preparing incarcerated persons for employment upon release. I then promoted to the Program Manager of the Napa County Community Corrections Service Center, and now hold the position of Area Manager for Northern California, overseeing multiple day reporting centers and in-custody adult and youth programs.

During my time with GEO, I have had the amazing opportunity to work as a trainer and facilitator at many facilities, and I have visited and delivered Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) training and support directly to team members who have worked at the Taylor Street facility, and I also facilitated groups for the participants housed there. I have had the pleasure of interacting with some of the most amazing individuals who finally feel the hope of being able to change their lives, because of the team of invested and engaged reentry staff surrounding them.

The work being done at the Taylor Street program is in-depth and purposeful. The staff are trained at the highest level to deliver program interventions targeting the greatest risk

factors that will lead the participants back into the system. Participants learn new life skills and social skills, are involved in family reparations and restorative justice practices, as well as cognitive restructuring assignments and activities. Additionally, they are assisted with not only obtaining employment but maintaining employment, and are taught how to manage the money received from their employment. They are taught how to stop and think before making decisions, and they learn alternative thinking to former anti-social thoughts and beliefs. Removing this program, and the investment that is made in these individuals, removes opportunities that will inevitably limit their chances at learning how to navigate life pro-socially when released. In addition to the above, they also engage in pro-social, community activities.

Many of the individuals that have been housed at the facility volunteer or work in programs throughout the City and have become part of the fabric of what makes up the great City of San Francisco and the sanctuary city that it is. These individuals have been giving back for many years now, and have even been highlighted in news articles for their work. Participants of the reentry program volunteered with the City Clean Team, assisting with keeping the streets clean and doing landscaping and gardening. They also partnered with St. Anthony's to help with food and clothing for the needs of others in the community, as well as delivering sack lunches to those who are food insecure. They also assisted with the Pit Stop program that provided restrooms throughout the City. Being a part of their community, and helping to make it better, is a foundational program element for those housed at the program, but it doesn't stop there. The reentry services delivered at the Taylor Street program are part and parcel to the greater work being done by GEO.

It is of the utmost importance that we are delivering operational excellence at all levels within GEO. We have a rigorous Quality Assurance Through Coaching (QATC) program in place to ensure that fidelity of services is maintained at all times. We require that staff receive annual and ongoing refresher training to stay on track and not drift from the model of service delivery we promise to our public sector partners. We are always reviewing the latest research on "What Works" in lowering recidivism and making sure to assess our services to be up-to-date and relevant with the latest in Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). "Good Enough Isn't" is a principle of GEO, and our teams exemplify this principle by putting their heart into all they do. This job is not just a job to them, it's a career, and serving the participants in our programs with dignity, respect, and the care they deserve, to give them a second chance at life, is our greatest passion. In working with so many teams throughout California, I have had the pleasure of seeing that passion in action, and the CBT programming with social skill development that is going on in all of these programs, is changing lives across the board. It's a culture for us, and shutting down that long-embedded culture at the Taylor Street program would cause great harm to the participants we are trying to help and the lives we are trying to save. We are in the Harm Reduction business, and this would do irreversible harm.

Taylor Street is a wonderful facility. I have worked with the director there for many years, and she has always given her all to running a safe, secure, and supportive facility and

program, and you couldn't find a better person to ensure that safety is maintained while lives are being changed. This program is needed so these individuals working to change their life have a place to slowly integrate back into the community, otherwise, they will just be released into the community without the support and safety parameters that the Taylor Street program provides.

In closing, I ask that you please take to heart the wonderful work that is being done at this program, and recognize that the individuals served there are just as vulnerable, overlooked, and often targeted by society as those trying to shut this down. They and we are all in this together – caring about each other and looking out for each other. Some of the individuals we serve in our GEO reentry programs, including the Taylor Street program are from the LGBTQ+ community and this action would remove the much-needed post-release housing and services they need as well. I hope that the decision will be to keep the doors open at the Taylor Street Facility and allow GEO to continue to operate and provide services to all those in need who come through our doors.

Thank you so much for your time.

Karen Graff
Area Manager, Northern CA GEO Reentry Services
kgraff@geogroup.com

May 29, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is Joseph Monge, and I am a proud alumnus here at the Napa County GEO reentry program. I have been involved in GEO since April of 2023. I completed GEO, I should I say, I earned my certificate of successful completion in May of 2024. I'd rather use the term "earned my certificate" because GEO, the exercises, and the work that is done through this program does not stop once you earn your certificate, at least not for me. I have learned everything through the counselors and the whole Napa team, to be more specific, through the groups that were provided – parenting, cognitive behavioral interventions for substance use adult (CBI-SUA), life skills, and anger management. There are more groups, but these were the groups I was involved in, because these are the areas where I struggle.

Due to my drug and alcohol use, I was a very lost and angry person, but I got the help I needed through anger management and CBI-SUA. There was a time period in my life where I was not present for my kids, so the parenting class offered at GEO helped a lot with that. I'm there for my kids today. I got so much out of the class, I voluntarily took it again and earned another certificate. If I had a choice, because of the life style that I used to live, I would periodically do this program for a refreshing reminder of success in my life. Every single exercise and group, and the help with changing my thought process, has been so helpful in my life, and I continue to use these skills in my day-to-day life - one day at a time.

GEO continues to impact my life in such a positive way. I continue to show up and the Napa team makes the days easier when I am struggling or need some more help. The door is always open and the team is there to help. I am involved in GEO to this day. I help mentor the sobriety night we hold every first Monday of the month, where myself and participants in the program have a safe place to play games, do art, eat snacks and talk about resolutions for struggling in our lives.

Thank you.

Joseph Monge
Program Graduate and Current Alumni Mentor
Napa Community Corrections Service Center

6/1/2025

[Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org](mailto:boardofappeals@sfgov.org)

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

It is with great confidence and respect that I write this letter of recommendation for Taylor Street Center, operated by Geo Reentry Services. Our organization, Turk Street Garage has had the pleasure of partnering with and supporting the efforts of Taylor Street Center over the past 3 years, and we have consistently been impressed with their professionalism, dedication, and measurable impact on the reentry population.

Taylor Street Center plays a vital role in the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals by providing a structured, supportive environment rooted in evidence-based practices. Their programming emphasizes accountability, personal development, employment readiness, and community reintegration—key pillars that align with best practices in reducing recidivism and promoting long-term success.

Our interactions with both the staff and participants of Taylor Street Center have always been positive and productive. The team is highly trained, compassionate, and deeply committed to creating opportunities for growth and change. We have seen firsthand how residents gain valuable life skills, rebuild family relationships, and reenter the workforce with renewed confidence and capability.

We highly recommend Taylor Street Center as a model of excellence in residential reentry services. Their continued success is a testament to the strength of their programming, their dedicated leadership, and their ability to adapt and respond to the complex needs of the populations they serve.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further insight into our experience working with Taylor Street Center.

Hector Castro
Manager Attended



6/1/2025

[Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org](mailto:boardofappeals@sfgov.org)

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

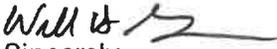
To The Board of Appeals:

I am writing to express my full support for the continued operation and advancement of Geo Reentry Services, specifically as it pertains to the impactful programming provided at Taylor Street Center. As the Assistant Facility Director, I have had the privilege of working closely with the staff and participants of the program and have witnessed firsthand the meaningful change it fosters in the lives of justice-involved individuals.

Taylor Street Center's approach—grounded in evidence-based practices, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and structured reentry services—creates real opportunities for our residents to succeed beyond the walls of our facility. The team consistently demonstrates professionalism, compassion, and a clear commitment to public safety and personal transformation.

Over the course of my time here, I've seen individuals not only meet program expectations but exceed them—reuniting with families, gaining employment, and returning to their communities with purpose and direction. That success is directly tied to the structure, accountability, and individualized support provided by Taylor Street Center's programming.

I strongly support the continued implementation and growth of this program. The work being done at Taylor Street Center is not only necessary, it's effective—and it is making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.


Sincerely,
Will Gomez

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hannah Marie Tietjens, and I am a current transgender resident of the GEO Re-Entry Center at 111 Taylor Street in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

My first time in the Center was in 2022. This is currently my second time as a resident. Both times since 2022 that I've lived there have been fine as far as staff treatment of the trans community. The claims that are being made by the LGBTQ+ community in San Francisco are not only patently false, but border on criminal.

Never in my personal experience has the LGBTQ+ community been mistreated, abused or tortured as has been claimed by parties wanting to take over ownership of the facility. There also have never been any maggots or other decomposition of food even back when they were plating it from the steam tables.

Currently, Trio Catering Services is providing the food that is served at the GEO Center. It is cooked in the morning and then flash frozen to be delivered that day for dinner. We then use microwaves to heat up the food which this method provides a much more streamlined process than what was used before.

I have no issue with the LGBTQ+ community making their attempt at acquiring ownership of the 111 Taylor Street facility. However, it is not within my morals to allow them to do so by falsifying claims, especially when those falsifications can lead to the displacement of over 200 residents.

I'd like to thank the Commission for allowing me to essentially take a stand against my own community and inform the honorable members of this committee that false claims are being made that need to be brought into the light. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope for an amenable resolution for all parties involved based on Truth and not lies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Marie Tietjens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hannah Marie Tietjens
Current Resident
GEO Re-Entry Center

May/28/2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President

J.R. Eppler, Vice President

Jose Lopez, Commissioner

Rick Swig, Commissioner

San Francisco Board of Appeals

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475

San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is Carolina Berrio Duque, BOP case manager, I have been working in GEO Group more than a 1 year and I must say that I am proud to work for an organization that makes such a significant and constructive contribution to society. The mission of the company from the first day deeply resonates with me, as I believe in the power of rehabilitation and positive effect it has on society.

As a Latina and LGBTQ person, I feel the genuine acceptance and inclusivity of GEO group, giving me the opportunity to apply this inclusive approach in my daily work, I have been able to use my native language to support Latino residents in our facility creating a more comfortable and effective experience for them. I have also the privilege of working with transgender population and elderly people, ensuring that their unique needs are addressed with sensitivity and understanding. This dedication to serving diverse populations truly makes a difference.

It is profoundly fulfilling to be part of a team that promote diversity and works hard to empower those seeking a fresh start, this company shows me that is not just about a rehabilitation program, it is about to build a stronger and more compassionate society for everyone.

sincerely,



Carolina Berrio Duque
BOP Case Manager

June 2, 2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

My name is Cynthia Marie Barnard. I began attending the GEO Monterey County Day Reporting Center (DRC) in 2023 and graduated in 2024. The DRC provided me with a fresh start in my journey towards sobriety. This program offered one-on-one counseling and provided me with a workbook called Moral Reconciliation Therapy, which was guided by an assigned facilitator. They taught me valuable tools to help me reintegrate into society. Additionally, there were supportive group sessions that I was required to complete as part of my parole and probation, such as Anger Management.

At 56 years old, I have been striving to maintain a healthy mindset, environment, and lifestyle since I was 12. The DRC program has truly put my journey in perspective.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Marie Barnard

5/30/2025

Sent to boardofappeals@sfgov.org

John Trasviña, President
J.R. Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Laborda vs. ZA
Appeal No.: 25-021
Subject Property: 111 Taylor Street

To The Board of Appeals:

I am writing to formally express my strong support for the Taylor Street Center. My experience working with GEO Group has provided me with firsthand insight into their effective rehabilitation and reentry services across California. I've personally witnessed the profound, positive transformations these programs facilitate, driven by a deep commitment to helping individuals successfully re-integrate into society.

GEO Group's established track record includes delivering essential services like job training, educational support, substance abuse counseling, and critical life skills development. These programs are vital for reducing recidivism and fostering productive, contributing citizens. I know the Taylor Street Center significantly benefits their community by offering structured support that directly addresses the challenges of reentry. They enhance public safety through reduced reoffending and strengthen the local workforce by equipping individuals with the tools for self-sufficiency. The Center represents a crucial pathway for individuals to become responsible community members, breaking cycles of incarceration, and fostering a more stable environment for everyone.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter, and I truly hope that the reentry services delivered to the participants at the Taylor Street Center will remain in place.

Sincerely,

Sundy Pech

Program Manager
Napa Community Corrections Service Center

[EXTERNAL] TSC Support letter

From Jason Carpenter <ijpen70@yahoo.com>
Date Thu 5/29/2025 6:30 PM
To boardofappeals@sfgov.org <boardofappeals@sfgov.org>
Cc Maria Richard <mnrichard@geogroup.com>

5.29.2025

John Trasvina, President
J.R Eppler, Vice President
Jose Lopez, Commissioner
Rick Swig, Commissioner
San Francisco Board of Appeals
49 South VanNess Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Laborda VS ZA
Appeal NO, : 25-021
Subject property: 111 Taylor ST

To The Board Of Appeals:

During my employment at the Taylor Street Center (TSC) from 2009 to early 2022 I held two position. My first assignment was Security Manager for the Bureau of Prisons re-entry program and The Parolee Service Center, offering rehabilitation services to ex-offenders on General parole. I had a ten year background in corrections in a previous state and immediately realized the impact and importance of re-entry programs upon offenders being released from custody. In many cases these offenders have no social skills, no family or outside support for basic needs required to become successful and contribute to their community. Re-entry programs, specifically the TSC provide those skills in many different ways to include reuniting with immediate family, employment services and essential programs to address criminal thinking and behaviors. The TSC is a unique re-entry program due to its focus not only reintegration of the offender into society, but its several programs using evidence based practices or EBP. EBP focuses on an offenders direct criminal needs that cause an ex-offender to re-offend. The programs and operations of the TSC are important because they give the returning individual the best possible chance for a positive re-entry to society. While assigned Program Manager for the Parolee Service Center (PSC) I dealt primarily with Long Term Offenders who had been confined for decades in state prison. Although the PSC re-entry program didn't focus strictly on criminal needs it was geared toward other specific needs of that population i.e.. basic employment, reunifications with family and other social needs required for an individual returning to society from long periods of incarceration.

During my employment at the TSC I saw first hand how the unique programs at the TSC helped the ex-offender adjust and reintegrate to society. I witnessed on numerous occasions how successful

programs like the TSC helped the previously incarcerated have a positive return to society. Just as importantly evidence shows programs like the TSC can reduce recidivism in our criminal justice systems.

Jason Carpenter

Sent from my iPad

 Outlook

LoS

From Maria Richard <mnrichard@geogroup.com>

Date Sun 6/1/2025 8:57 PM

To Maria Richard <mnrichard@geogroup.com>

To whom it may concern:

(TO STAFF AT
111 TAYLOR)

This is a former resident of 111 Taylor who completed the program that allowed me to grow and prosper with the guidance of staff that "put in the work" to help us whom came out of the dark into the light...

I was given an opportunity to prove my worthiness by doing the right thing even when not being observed, i'm talking about "Integrity", making living amends and giving back to the community, by "planting trees" cleaning up in and out of "GEO".

The purpose of writing this letter is to support the "management and staff" that on a daily basis strive to help the women, men who are being integrated back into society.

As a law abiding, tax payer, register

voter i fully support that the "GEO " stay open to continue to help those who rehabilitated themselves back into society, this is an excellent "Stepping Stone" for those who are coming home to the community.

So i encourage those with deep compassion, empathy to NOT change what those who desperately need this safe haven for employment, education along with their continuance of rehabilitation.

Respectfully

Submitted,

A Former tenet:

Eddie Ballesteros

SO//MA WEST

AMBASSADOR

Maria Richard

To The Board of Appeals:

Hello Board of Appeals, my name is Kevin Ross and I am a former employee of 111 Taylor Street. I was an employee of 111 Taylor street from approximately 2016 to 2021. During my time at Taylor street the program had the stated goal of rehabilitation of those who have been affected by the criminal justice system, and during my employment at this facility, my coworkers, our bosses and myself consistently strived towards that goal.

111 Taylor St functions as a form of community incarceration or graduated sanction. But 111 Taylor Street restores the lives of those effected by the criminal justice system because the program seeks to heal the wounds of not only the previously incarcerated individual but the individuals both close and far from them. I personally taught a Family Bonds class with previously incarcerated long term offenders. This class met weekly and was designed to assist offenders in reintegrating themselves back into the lives of their family in a healthy, logical, and safe way. Many of the participants in my class left prison with expectations for their families, ways they expected to be treated and received. In reality the story book reunions they had envisioned for 25 years did not turn out that way. Often our participants were met with animosity from their families. 111 Taylor Street and our program gave them a safe space and a safe place, and the necessary tools to process that frustration and disappointment. Our program helped these fathers repair relationships with their children in a functional way. Our program created better husbands, fathers, brothers and sons, who ultimately passed that healing on. Our program and the work we did helped to heal the wounds of people that had never stepped in the building.

The participants not only served their families but the San Francisco community by building bridges and creating dialogue where none had existed. While I was employed with 111 Taylor street we completed a performing arts production with a college close to the center. In this program we had long term offenders paired with college students and collaborated on dances, plays, and short story readings about the prison system and its effect on the community. This specific program was the melding of two worlds that would have never found a common platform without the Taylor Street Program. During this program the college faculty and its students often commented how respectful, compassionate, intelligent, creative, and honest our participants were. Whenever I received these compliments I would jokingly say "they are felons what did you expect?". This joke that I often used to describe the actions of our participants was my direct challenge to the notion that felons are destined to reoffend. Taylor Street as a program directly challenges that notion everyday. Taylor Street provides offenders a safe, clean, and regulated space to gain employment, complete programs, and serve the community.

Regarding serving the community. I have personally completed hundreds of hours of community service with participants in the Taylor Street center. While working with the long term offender program my participants and I cleaned empty lots, covered graffiti, served food at a library, cleaned schools, dug and planted trees, the list is endless. And on each occasion when the opportunity was put forth to our participants to volunteer their time to serve the community we often ran out of seats in the transport vehicles due to the number of sign ups. I can recall on one occasion we were given an assignment to clear an abandoned lot of trash/debris. The employee with public works asked me "are these the OG's?" (referring to my long term offender population). I said "yes" the employee with public works stated "sweet, I was hoping I'd get you guys". He explained that the public works crews often argued over who would get assigned the

group from 111 Taylor Street because whatever task our participants were assigned they completed to a standard well above what was required, or could have ever been expected. The comment from this public works official allowed me to say my favorite line "they are felons what did you expect?". When given an opportunity to serve others our participants showed up in droves and gave maximum effort and intention. Taylor Street is what provided that opportunity. Taylor street is the natural evolution in restorative justice. The participants at 111 Taylor street are given the tools and opportunities to repair the damage their actions have caused the community. Those leaving prison are bombarded with expectations and desires. They move from a world of slow pace and no grace to a world where post haste is commonplace. Without 111 Taylor street this transition is needlessly difficult for the participants, their loved ones and the community.

My cursory research of some of the current objections to Taylor Street stem from the facility sharing the site of Compton Cafeteria. The articles I have read describe the facility as not being community focused or somehow not supportive of this historical site. This is contrary to my direct experience as I personally set up tables, prepared food, and shared drinks (non alcoholic of course) with community members in the exact corner of the building where the Cafeteria stood on the anniversary of the event. We were excited to host the event and pressured by management to be exceptional hosts. That get together was easily one of my favorite memories working there.

In my years at Geo I saw Restorative Justice in action. I cannot envision a San Francisco that does not have a program like 111 Taylor street that provides housing for thousands of previously incarcerated individuals and provides them with a platform and opportunity to start living intentional lives of service and growth. For any other questions, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Kevin Ross

Email- Kross4288@gmail.com
Cell- 408-726-4740

From: [Nelson G Nelson](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Zoning Discrepancies at 111 Taylor
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 9:20:09 PM

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

To the attention of Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Nelson. I am a community member and educator in San Francisco. I'd like to make a comment regarding a discrepancy in what the SF Planning Department calls "Group Housing" at 111 Taylor. For all intents and purposes, the building is being used as detention, not housing. The daily headcounts, searches, and locked doors are well documented, yet the "Group Housing" label still stands. Why?

This is more than a semantic detail, it shields the operator from accountability and creates a major block to public review. I urge you to direct Planning and the City Attorney to reassess GEO Group's use of this facility. If it meets Residential Care zoning criteria, require the proper change-of-use permit. This operation must be brought into daylight to protect our community and ensure fairness, safety and dignity for the residents.

Thank you,

Nelson G Nelson

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

From: [Morgan Davies](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Hearing on Conditions at GEO Group's 111 Taylor Street Facility
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 12:04:25 AM

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

Hello,

My name is Morgan Davies and I am a San Francisco resident. I would like to make a public comment to the Government Audit and Oversight Committee regarding the conditions at GEO Group's 111 Taylor Street facility:

I am calling for justice for Melvin Bulauan. Before his passing he described his experience at 111 Taylor St to his son: he was anxious and scared, he would rather go back to jail than stay in the program. His experience and the ultimate outcome should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch.

I am asking the committee to prioritize human life over corporate interests and the status quo. Demand GEO Group provide a full, public report on what failed. Request timelines for fixes. If GEO Group cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate. Please act immediately so no person or their family has to live this again.

Thank you,
Morgan

From: [Emily Rinn](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Transparency Now
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 12:08:06 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Emily, an employee in a local Bay Area city government, and advocate for open government. We cannot oversee what we cannot see. Require GEO Group and CDCR to release inspection reports, incident logs, staffing ratios, occupancy levels, and grievance outcomes each month. Publish them online. If they refuse, bring them back for a follow-up hearing. Sunlight is step one.

From: blair@drlapin.org
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Close GEO
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 7:36:28 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Blair Sandler. I am a San Francisco resident and taxpayer. Government money flows to GEO Group. We see broken elevators, crowding, and poor services. Where did the money go? Tie payment to outcomes that matter. Safe housing. Jobs secured. Health care access. Independent audits should verify delivery before payment. If GEO Group cannot show results, stop paying them to fail.

As a sanctuary city, SF has no business even allowing GEO, a criminal enterprise profiting off the incarceration and criminalization of decent and innocent people, to operate in SF.

Sincerely,

Blair Sandler, Ph.D., J.D.
1742 Newcomb Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94124

From: [Emily Speltz](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:12:36 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Emily. I am writing about justice for Melvin Bulauan. He had said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. His children had come to the facility after receiving concerning calls from him, but were turned away by staff saying no one by his name was in the facility. The next day he was found dead just blocks away from the building. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matthew Kawakami](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:25:12 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Matthew; I am an occupational therapist. People leaving prison need stability, agency, and trust. At 111 Taylor they get control and fear. Curfews and surprise searches trigger trauma. People shut down. They leave early or violate out. That is a pipeline back to custody. Replace punishment with evidence-based care. Require licensed mental health services and trauma-informed practice. Make that a condition to operate.

From,
Matthew Kawakami

From: [Jennifer Teissler](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: GEO group
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:29:14 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Jennifer. My tax dollars money flows to GEO Group. We see broken elevators, crowding, and poor services. Where did the money go? Tie payment to outcomes that matter. Safe housing. Jobs secured. Health care access. Independent audits should verify delivery before payment. If GEO Group cannot show results, stop paying them to fail. This is your civic duty.

From: [Anna DiStefano](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Written comment on 111 Taylor
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:17:05 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Anna DiStefano; I am a SF resident, Tenderloin neighbor, and a healthcare professional. As a member of these communities, we ask for three actions.

First, order independent health, safety, and ADA audits with public reports. We need transparency on these issues, as credible testimony has been given indicating abuse and flagrant disregard for the law. Further, we suggest publicizing quarterly outcomes: stable housing at exit, 90-day employment, 12-month recidivism, healthcare linkage, and grievance resolution times. If results do not improve by set targets, trigger a replacement plan. Our government must manage by data, not promises.

Second, cap occupancy and require licensed services on site. It is frankly embarrassing that this needs to be said. Resident crowding fuels conflict, disease, and despair. Cap occupancy per room and per floor. Tie payment to safe density and outcomes, not headcount. People are not revenue units.

Third, start a transition plan to community-run reentry and cultural use that honors Compton's. Set dates. Assign leads that take their jobs seriously. Report back in a timely manner.

Our community deserves care, safety, and dignity at 111 Taylor, whether living inside or alongside the facility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

From: [Edwin Wu](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Written comment on 111 Taylor
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:20:40 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,

My name is Edwin Wu; I am a SF resident, and Tenderloin neighbor. I am writing to request 3 clear actions on 111 Taylor.

First, order independent health, safety, and ADA audits with public reports. We need transparency on these issues, as credible testimony has been given indicating abuse and flagrant disregard for the law. Further, we strongly recommend publicizing quarterly outcomes: stable housing at exit, 90-day employment, 12-month recidivism, healthcare linkage, and grievance resolution times. If results do not improve by set targets, trigger a replacement plan. Our government must manage by data, not promises.

Second, cap occupancy and require licensed services on site. It is well known that resident crowding fuels conflict, disease, and despair. Cap occupancy per room and per floor. Tie payment to safe density and outcomes, not headcount. An unsafe environment within the facility inevitably spreads to the surrounding area. Residents at 111 Taylor deserve evidence-based care, and residents in the community deserve peaceful neighbors.

Third, start a transition plan to community-run reentry and cultural use that honors Compton's. Set dates. Assign leads that take their jobs seriously. Report back in a timely manner.

Our community deserves care, safety, and dignity at 111 Taylor, whether living inside or alongside the facility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Edwin

From: [Kevin Davidson](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulauan
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:52:06 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Kevin Davidson. I am here for justice for Melvin Bulauan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

Sincerely,
Kevin

From: [Kasey Rios Asberry](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Govt Audit comm public comment item 1 : 111 Taylor
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:22:39 AM

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

Dear Govt Audit & Oversight Committee of the Board of Supervisors,

This message urges you to initiate a full and transparent investigation of the site at 111 Taylor currently run as a carceral facility by GEO Group.

San Francisco and the Tenderloin should not provide any safe haven for private prison corporations who endanger and cost lives.

Please consider our traditions to be aligned with St Francis's values and our laws related to information sunshine and private prisons.

A better and higher use is available to us for this historic location, we advocate for that!

Thank you for your public service,

Kasey Rios

>>>><<<<<

Demonstration Gardens

kasberry@humanorigins.org

415-283-8570

Linked-In: www.linkedin.com/in/kasey-rios-asberry-1305301

>>>><<<<<

From: [Heidi Kim](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Justice for Melvin Bulaulan
Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:55:31 AM

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

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee Members,
My name is Heidi. I am here for justice for Melvin Bulaulan. He called his son and said he was anxious and scared. He said he would rather go back to jail than stay at 111 Taylor. The next day he was gone. That should never happen in a reentry program. It happened on GEO Group's watch. I ask you to put human life first. Demand a full, public report on what failed. Require timelines for fixes. If GEO cannot meet basic safety and care standards, they should not operate here. Please act today so no family has to live this again.

Thank you,
Heidi Kim

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Subject: Urgent Request for Oversight: Overcrowding, Unsafe Conditions, and Misuse of 111 Taylor Street Residential Reentry Center
Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025 9:03:37 AM

Hello,

Please see below communication regarding **File No. 250792:**

Hearing to address concerns raised by community members of neglect, abuse, and civil rights violations at the Taylor Street Facility located at 111 Taylor Street, operated by the GEO Group, Inc.; and requesting the GEO Group, Inc., Office of the Public Defender, Adult Probation Department, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to report.

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

***Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: JACOB HOROWITZ <jacobahorowitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 10:30 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Subject: Urgent Request for Oversight: Overcrowding, Unsafe Conditions, and Misuse of 111 Taylor Street Residential Reentry Center

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to formally request your immediate oversight and intervention regarding the dangerous and deteriorating living conditions at the **111 Taylor Street Residential Reentry Center**, operated under a federal contract.

I currently live in a room with **six men sharing a single bathroom**. This level of overcrowding violates basic health, safety, and human dignity standards, and contradicts the facility's approved "Group Housing" zoning classification.

Furthermore, the building appears to be operating far beyond its intended scope:

Key Concerns

1. Extreme Overcrowding

- Approximately **200 residents** occupy the building.
- Rooms originally approved for "1–2 occupants" now house **six men each**.

2. Carceral Operations

- There are **six mandatory counts per day**, during which all residents must remain **locked inside their rooms** until counts clear.
- This practice is indistinguishable from correctional operations, not Group Housing.

3. Insufficient Bathroom Access & Sanitation

- Six men share a single bathroom, causing unsanitary conditions and lack of reasonable hygiene access.

4. Inadequate Laundry Capacity

- The small number of laundry machines is insufficient for nearly 200 residents, often resulting in multi-hour wait times and unsanitary conditions.

5. Hot Water and Water Pressure Failures

- Many days, showers cannot be completed due to lack of hot water or water pressure.

6. No Kitchen & Inadequate Food Conditions

- There is **no kitchen** for residents.
- The only food available are **TV-dinner-style frozen meals**, microwaved on **2–3**

microwaves for the entire building.

7. Multiple Active City Complaints

Public information shows open DBI complaints regarding:

- Overcrowding
- Illegal change of use
- Unsafe building conditions

These issues demonstrate an urgent need for city-level oversight.

Request for Action

I respectfully request that the Board:

1. Conduct an oversight hearing into the conditions at 111 Taylor Street,
2. Require GEO Reentry Services and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide full transparency regarding occupancy, inspections, and compliance,
3. Coordinate with DBI, Planning, and the City Attorney's Office to determine if zoning and building codes are being violated,
4. Mandate corrective action to ensure humane, safe living conditions for all residents.

Thank you for your time and attention. Many lives are directly affected by the conditions at this facility, and I implore the Board to take immediate action.

Sincerely,

Jacob Horowitz

Resident – 111 Taylor Street RRC
San Francisco, CA