

1 [Urging the Sheriff’s Department to Implement Virtual Visits for Children with Incarcerated
2 Parents]

3 **Resolution urging the Sheriff’s Department to implement virtual visits for children with**
4 **incarcerated parents in an effort to maintain the established parent-child relationship.**

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6 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an unprecedented public health crisis and is impacting every
7 aspect of our daily lives and putting our most vulnerable populations at greater risk as we see
8 glaring at us the socio-economic disparities that have plagued our poor communities; and

9 WHEREAS, The increased vulnerability of low-income people in San Francisco can be
10 seen in the recent statistics showing how the COVID-19 virus is hitting most vulnerable
11 populations with 1,468 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of April 28, 2020, split between 32%
12 Latinx, 17% White, 14% Asian, 5% African American, 7% other and 23% unknown; and

13 WHEREAS, Among the 23 COVID-19 related deaths in San Francisco, 75% of people
14 of color, 12 are Asian, 5 are White, 3 are African American, 2 are Latinx, and 1 other; and

15 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has forced the city to address and respond to the structural
16 racism that exists in this county and places a spotlight on access to health care and who is
17 more likely to contract COVID-19; and

18 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors applauds the work of the City through the
19 District Attorney’s office and the Sheriff’s Department to decrease the number of incarcerated
20 persons with an April 28, 2020, report of only 725 incarcerated persons in the SF county jail
21 system; and

22 WHEREAS, As of March 13, 2020, all county jail visits have been suspended in order
23 to protect people in custody; and

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1 WHEREAS, Children with incarcerated parents face a wide range of challenges with
2 very few services are specifically designed to support youth with this unique but widespread
3 experience; and

4 WHEREAS, The maintenance of family ties during incarceration is one possible means
5 of lessening the negative impact of incarceration on families and children and most
6 incarcerated parents want to maintain relationships with their children, including with their
7 education; and

8 WHEREAS, Children face challenges in maintaining relationships with their
9 incarcerated parents due to a lack of consistency in communication through phone calls,
10 letters, and visits, thus these disenfranchised voices must be lifted as part of the responses
11 being addressed under the current crisis; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2003, the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership
13 (SFCIPP) published the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights, which includes,
14 among others, a right to not be judged, blamed or labeled because of the child's parent's
15 incarceration, a right to support as children struggle with their parent's incarceration, and the
16 right to a lifelong relationship with their parents; and

17 WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Department currently operates a program called "One
18 Family" in which incarcerated persons are required to enroll in parenting classes and then
19 assigned a case manager to work with the family to ensure a therapeutic and meaningful
20 relationship is built through parent-child visitation; and

21 WHEREAS, It is estimated that around 40 incarcerated persons are enrolled in this
22 program have not been able to visit with their child during the COVID-19 crisis; and

23 WHEREAS, The parent-child contact visits can be achieved through video
24 conferencing visitation allowing children to contact and communicate with the incarcerated
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1 parent helping to continue to build on the relationships that were being established prior to the
2 COVID-19 visitation halt without further interruption; and

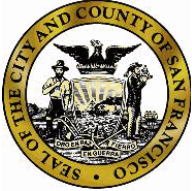
3 WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Department currently allows virtual court appointments and
4 virtual visits with attorneys, proving that they have the existing technology and ability to
5 provide virtual visits; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Sheriff's Department to
7 immediately implement the "One Family" program allowing current enrolled families to have
8 video conferencing visits in an effort to maintain the established parent-child relationship; and,
9 be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That video conference visits shall only be used to supplement
11 in person visits and shall in no way replace, interfere with, or discourage in-person visits
12 between parents and children after the COVID-19 crisis; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Sheriff's
14 Department to designate staffing to allow for virtual conferencing visits to create the
15 opportunities for children of incarcerated people to strengthen the parent-child bond in
16 accordance to the Children's Bill of Rights.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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Tails
Resolution

File Number: 200431

Date Passed: May 05, 2020

Resolution urging the Sheriff's Department to implement virtual visits for children with incarcerated parents in an effort to maintain the established parent-child relationship.

May 05, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200431

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/5/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

05/15/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/15/2020

Date