

1 [Creating a Foster Care Improvement Task Force.]

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3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Sections 5.300**
4 **and 5.305 to establish a Foster Care Improvement Task Force charged with**
5 **implementing the recommendations of the Disproportionality Project, and to examine**
6 **and address the overrepresentation of African American children in foster care.**

7 Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;
8 deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~.
9 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

10 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

11 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding
12 Sections 5.300 and 5.305, to read as follows:

13 SEC. 5.300. ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF FOSTER CARE IMPROVEMENT TASK
14 FORCE.

15 (a) Foster Care Improvement Task Force. There is hereby established a Foster Care
16 Improvement Task Force ("Task Force") of the City and County of San Francisco. Generally, the task
17 force shall address the overrepresentation of African American children in foster care and the
18 circumstances of African American families in San Francisco.

19 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall consist of 15 voting members and 8 nonvoting
20 members as provided below. Voting members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors.
21 The chair shall monitor the attendance of Task Force members. In the event that any member misses
22 three regularly scheduled meetings of the Task Force without prior notice to the Task Force, the chair
23 shall send a warning notice to that member. The member who has received a warning notice must
24 respond to the chair within five days with an explanation for the absences. If the member does not
25 respond to the chair within the required period or continues to miss meetings, the task force may vote

1 to recommend to the Board of Supervisors removal of the member from the Task Force. If the Board of
2 Supervisors votes to remove the member, the chair shall request the appointment of a new member.

3 (1) Voting Members. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint voting members from the
4 categories stated below.

5 Voting members shall be appointed for a term of two years. In the event a vacancy occurs, the
6 Board of Supervisors shall appoint a successor to complete the remainder of that term. Members of the
7 Foster Care Improvement Task Force shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

8 The Board of Supervisors shall appoint the voting members of the Foster Care Improvement
9 Task Force from the following categories:

10 (A) Six representatives of neighborhood organizations, with one each from the following six
11 neighborhoods in which there is a significant number of African American children in
12 foster care: 1) Oceanview/Merced/Ingleside, 2) Potrero Hill, 3) South of
13 Market/Tenderloin, 4) Visitation Valley, 5) Western Addition; and 6) Bayview/Hunter's
14 Point;

15 (B) One representative of a faith based organization;

16 (C) One representative of a child care organization;

17 (D) One representative involved in engagement and community planning, with
18 expertise working with African-American and Latino families;

19 (E) One representative from a domestic violence organization;

20 (F) One representative from an organization dedicated to serving emancipated
21 youth;

22 (G) One representative of a foster care advocacy organization;

23 (H) One representative who is a foster care parent;

24 (I) One representative who is an emancipated youth;

1 (J) One representative of the a child welfare organization;

2 (2) Nonvoting Members. The Task Force shall consist of up to eight nonvoting members on
3 the task force: (i) a representative of the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families; (ii) a
4 representative of the Juvenile Probation Department; (iii) a representative of the Adult Probation
5 Department; (iv) a representative from the Department of Public Health's Children's System of Care
6 Initiative; (v) a representative from the Human Services Agency's Foster Care System; and (vi) a
7 representative from the Economic and Workforce Development Department. In addition, San
8 Francisco United School District and the San Francisco Housing Authority each shall be invited to
9 provide a representative as the seventh and eighth nonvoting members, respectively, of the task force.

10 (c) Staffing. The Human Services Agency shall provide such staff support to the Task Force
11 as is necessary to notice meetings, maintain minutes of the meetings, produce and distribute agendas
12 and materials for meetings and comply with the requirements of the City's Sunshine Ordinance.

13 (d) Purposes of the Task Force; Strategic Plan. On December 9, 2004, Supervisor Sophie
14 Maxwell held a hearing to address foster care improvement and disproportionality issues. For
15 purposes of this ordinance, disproportionality shall mean the overrepresentation of African American
16 children in foster care. Among the objectives raised at the December 9, 2004 hearing was the creation
17 of a task force to ensure that the Department of Human Services carries out the recommendations of
18 the Disproportionality Project in a timely manner. Therefore, the Foster Care Improvement Task
19 Force shall recommend to the Board of Supervisors legislative action and citywide strategies to
20 implement the proposals of the Disproportionality Project, which include: 1) implement circles of
21 support within the community that support and mentor individuals/families struggling to move out of
22 crisis; 2) launch a targeted, focused, "positive message" campaign that saturates the city, especially the
23 five priority areas, as defined by the Disproportionality Project Report dated November 2004, to
24 influence community thinking and actions regarding disproportionality in foster care; 3) develop

1 effective family support strategies and programs for priority areas and populations; 4) strengthen
2 interdepartmental collaboration among the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public
3 Health, and other key City departments to support parents and adult caregivers who are substance
4 abusers (and related problems, such as mental illness); 5) focus on youth permanence, i.e. permanent
5 placement of foster youth through legal guardianship, adoption or reunification; 6) implement policies
6 and practices that ensure continuity, consistency, equity and effectiveness within the San Francisco
7 Department of Human Services, especially in family placements; 7) focus on preventative, culturally
8 competent and family responsive services; 8) improve and expand City departments' data systems; and
9 9) initiate and maintain interdepartmental and community collaborations. The Foster Care
10 Improvement Task Force shall provide a written report to the Board of Supervisors every six months to
11 inform the Board of the Task Force's progress towards meeting these goals.

12 SECTION 5.305. SUNSET PROVISION.

13 The Foster Care Improvement Task Force shall submit a recommendation to the Board of
14 Supervisors two years after the passage of this ordinance regarding whether the Foster Care
15 Improvement Task Force should continue in effect. Unless this Article is reauthorized and extended by
16 the Board by resolution before August 31, 2007, this Article shall expire by operation of law. The
17 Board may reauthorize and extend the task force every two years, but the task force shall not continue
18 in effect beyond August 31, 2011.

19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
20 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

21
22 By: _____
23 CECILIA T. MANGOBA
24 Deputy City Attorney
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