

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [BOS-Administrative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Nagasundaram, Sekhar \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from PD Mano Raju in support of BOS Resolution 210434 Supporting AB 937 (Carrillo) - The VISION Act
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 8:39:33 AM
Attachments: [Letter from PD Raju to BOS re- VISION Act Support -4-26-21.pdf](#)

From: Goossen, Carolyn (PDR) <carolyn.goossen@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 9:59 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>
Subject: Letter from PD Mano Raju in support of BOS Resolution 210434 Supporting AB 937 (Carrillo) - The VISION Act

Dear Supervisors and Aides,

Please see Public Defender Mano Raju's letter of support for Resolution 210434, introduced by Supervisors Walton, Ronen, Haney and Mar - *Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 937 (Carrillo) - The VISION Act*, which will be voted on by the full Board of Supervisors tomorrow.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you and warm regards,
Carolyn

Carolyn Ji Jong Goossen
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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

MANOHAR RAJU – PUBLIC DEFENDER
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY



April 26, 2021

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: BOS Resolution 210434 Supporting AB 937 (Carrillo) — The VISION Act

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 210434, *Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 937 (Carrillo) - The VISION Act*, which will be voted on by the full Board of Supervisors tomorrow. Thank you, Supervisors Walton, Ronen, and Haney, and Mar for co-sponsoring and championing this resolution.

My office is an official co-sponsor of AB 937, the Voiding Inequality and Seeking Inclusion for Out Immigrant Neighbors (VISION) Act, because this bill has the potential to greatly reduce harms to families across the state. As you know, the San Francisco Public Defender Office is one of only a handful of public defender offices in the country to provide legal representation to detained immigrants facing deportation who are unable to afford an attorney. We have spent the last two decades witnessing the unjust double-punishment of non-citizens, who after completing their sentences and rehabilitating, are nonetheless subjected to the deportation system — a system that lacks basic due process safeguards.

Often, immigrants plead to offenses without being aware that their conviction will lead to mandatory immigration detention, automatic deportation, and ineligibility for future legalization. In fact, it is often upon their release from criminal custody that immigrants learn for the first time that they are subject to mandatory detention and deportation permanent banishment from the country, from their families, their homes, and their livelihoods. Many of our long-term residents ultimately prevail in their deportation proceedings, and yet, they suffer for years in the most degrading detention conditions run by private for-profit companies.

In recent years, with the passing of SB 260, SB 261, SB 1437, AB 1812 (which amended Penal Code 1170(d)(1)), Proposition 47, the legislature and California voters have demonstrated a strong commitment to reforming our criminal justice system and ending mass incarceration. However, the State's role in funneling California residents to the custody of ICE undercuts our progress towards a more equitable society, and unfairly targets immigrants and refugees.

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San Francisco, CA 94103
P: 415.553.1671
F: 415.553.9810
www.sfpUBLICDEFENDER.org

Juvenile Division - YGC
375 Woodside Avenue, Rm. 118
San Francisco, CA 94127
P: 415.753.7601
F: 415.566.3030

Juvenile Division - JJC
258A Laguna Honda Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94116
P: 415.753.8174
F: 415.753.8175

Clean Slate
P: 415.553.9337
www.sfpUBLICDEFENDER.org/services

Community Justice Center
P: 415.202.2832
F: 415.563.8506

Bayview Magic
P: 415.558.2428
www.bayviewmagic.org

MoMagic
P: 415.567.0400
www.momagic.org

As the city with one of the largest immigrant communities in the state, San Francisco has an ethical obligation to take action to protect the rights of all refugees and immigrants who call San Francisco home, including those eligible for release from our local jails and state prisons.

Community members transferred to ICE are refugees, lawful permanent residents, people who entered the United States as children, parents, caretakers, essential workers, or are otherwise valued San Francisco residents. The devastating effects of ICE transfers have widespread consequences, and our continued engagement in it will inflict irreparable harm to those who came here fleeing war and genocide or to simply build a better life for themselves and their children.

ICE transfers and incarceration are harmful to public health. Countless studies document negative health impacts of incarceration in jails, prisons, and ICE detention centers. People who have been incarcerated have worse health outcomes and, overall, have lower life expectancies. Given the racial inequities plaguing the carceral system, the significant health risk posed by incarceration and transfers weigh heavily on California's Black, Latinx, and Asian and Islander American communities. Ending ICE transfers is good for public health and health equity. In fact, non-cooperation policies with ICE have no demonstrable effect on public safety. According to a recent and comprehensive study by the Stanford Immigration Policy Lab, "sanctuary policies have no measurable effect on crime."¹

For the above reasons, the San Francisco Public Defender's office is proud to co-sponsor The VISION Act, AB 937, and strongly urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to put San Francisco on the forefront of this fight and support the passage of AB937 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manohar Raju". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Manohar" and last name "Raju" clearly distinguishable.

Manohar Raju
San Francisco Public Defender

¹ See *Sanctuary Policies Protect Immigrants But Don't Threaten Public Safety*: New Stanford Immigration Policy Lab (Oct. 2020), available at: <https://law.stanford.edu/press/sanctuary-policies-protect-immigrants-but-dont-threaten-public-safety-new-stanford-research/>