



Reentry Council City and County of San Francisco

February 11, 2014

Honorable David Chiu, President of the Board of Supervisors
Honorable John Avalos
Honorable London Breed
Honorable David Campos
Honorable Malia Cohen
Honorable Mark Farrell
Honorable Jane Kim
Honorable Eric Mar
Honorable Katy Tang
Honorable Scott Wiener
Honorable Norman Yee
City Hall, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend that the legislation authorizing the Reentry Council of the City and County of San Francisco be renewed with the revisions noted on Attachment A. San Francisco Administrative Code Sec. 5.1 establishes the Reentry Council of San Francisco, the purpose of which is to coordinate local efforts to support adults exiting San Francisco County Jail, San Francisco juvenile justice system out-of-home placements, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities, and the United States Federal Bureau of Prison facilities. The Council provides the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the public, and any other appropriate agency with accurate and comprehensive information about programs that serve this population, barriers faced by this population, best practices to meet the needs of this population, and funding sources for programs and practices that address the needs of this population. The Council coordinates information sharing, planning, and engagement among all interested private and public stakeholders to the extent permissible under Federal and State law.

The Council was established in 2009 to sunset June 1, 2014, unless the Board of Supervisors adopts an ordinance continuing its existence. Per the legislation, the Council shall submit a report to the Board of Supervisors "recommending whether the Council should continue to operate, and if so, whether the Board of Supervisors shall consider legislative changes that would enhance the capacity of the Council to achieve the goals that the ordinance creating the council identifies." Please accept this letter, along with attachments, as the report required by Sec. 5.1-6.

The Reentry Council has had a remarkable initial four years, as evidenced by the following highlighted accomplishments and milestones:

The purpose of the Reentry Council is to coordinate local efforts to support adults exiting San Francisco County Jail, San Francisco juvenile justice out-of-home placements, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities, and the United States Federal Bureau of Prison facilities.

- Since 2009, the Reentry Council has met 20 times, or about four times per year, and enjoys robust regular attendance by its members, San Francisco residents, and other stakeholders. Attachment B provides a roster of members. The Reentry Council currently has three subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Assessment and Connections, the Subcommittee on Support and Opportunities, and the Subcommittee on Policy and Operational Practices. Attachment C provides an overview of the issue areas addressed by each subcommittee, which meet bi-monthly.
- The Reentry Council serves as the Reentry Task Force required by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for all applications for Second Chance Act grants, “comprised of relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders. The Task Force should examine ways to pool resources and funding streams and collect data and best practices in offender reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations... provid[ing] a key opportunity for local policymakers to work together to identify and address local barriers to effective reentry, including barriers that are policy or procedural in nature.” San Francisco has received eight federal Second Chance Act grants since 2009, and grantees regularly report to the Reentry Council on implementation progress. Staff presented on the role of the Reentry Council at the 2012 Second Chance Act grantee conference in Washington, D.C.
- The recipient of a federal Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) technical assistance grant, the Reentry Council has since 2011 participated in a rigorous investigation of local criminal justice processes and data during Phase I of the Initiative. An application for a Phase II award is pending review by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. If awarded, the Reentry Council would oversee the exploration of three strategies for reducing costs across San Francisco’s criminal justice system: reducing the standard length of probation from three to two years for certain individuals, reducing racial disproportionality across the system, and expanding pretrial alternatives to incarceration. Phase II awards carry up to \$300,000 in seed funds to implement JRI strategies.
- The Reentry Council has earned regional, statewide, and even national recognition for its unique membership structure, particularly the inclusion of formerly incarcerated appointed members. Reentry Council staff spurred the creation of a California Reentry Council Network, funded by the Rosenberg Foundation and administered by Californians for Safety and Justice, which connects individuals involved in formalized and ad hoc reentry councils and task forces throughout California. The Reentry Council is listed as a resource on the website of the National Reentry Resource Center, a project of the Council on State Governments.

The recommended revisions to the Administrative Code, as indicated in Attachment A, will strengthen the representation of key communities and populations by adding the requirement that one of the formerly incarcerated appointed members be a survivor of crime or violence; bring quorum requirements in line with standard practice for Boards and Commissions by increasing the number of members from eleven to twelve for the purposes of establishing quorum; will codify the relationship between the Reentry Council and the San Francisco Sentencing Commission as required by San Francisco Ordinance 270-07; and will extend the sunset date until June 1, 2019.

The purpose of the Reentry Council is to coordinate local efforts to support adults exiting San Francisco County Jail, San Francisco juvenile justice out-of-home placements, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities, and the United States Federal Bureau of Prison facilities.

We urge you to vote in support of renewing the authorizing legislation for the Reentry Council, with the changes recommended above. We look forward to continuing to make recommendations to this body and the Mayor on reentry policy and operational issues in the coming years. If you have any questions or would like additional information about any of these efforts, please contact staff at reentry.council@sfgov.org or (415) 553-1593.

Sincerely,

Members of the Reentry Council of the City and County of San Francisco

Attachment A: Proposed revisions to Administrative Code Sec. 5.1

Attachment B: Roster of Members

Attachment C: Overview of Reentry Council Subcommittee issue areas

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