



May 06, 2020

Board of Supervisors & Sheriff's Department  
San Francisco City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**SUBJECT: Resolution Urging Sheriff's Department to Implement Virtual Visits for Children with Incarcerated Parents [BOS File #: 200431]**

Dear Supervisors Walton, Haney, Peskin, Ronen, Preston, Fewer, Mar, Safai, and Yee,

The Executive Committee of the San Francisco Youth Commission, composed of the undersigned members, strongly urges you to support Supervisor Walton's resolution urging the Sheriff's Department to Implement Virtual Visits for Children with Incarcerated Parents. It is essential to the health and well-being of these children and parents to have communication with each other to maintain family ties during incarceration, and especially during a global pandemic. The legislation is sponsored by a total of ten Supervisors, including Hillary Ronen, Dean Preston, Ahsha Safai, Rafael Mandelman, Matt Haney, Sandra Lee Fewer, and President Yee. The Youth Commission has previously supported the Bill of Rights for Children of Detained Parents in 2018. The Youth Commission has also reiterated its support for alternatives to incarceration in every annual Budget and Policy Priorities report it has issued since 2015.

The current public health crisis has exposed how the most marginalized people in our communities are the first to be hit the hardest when it comes to financial, emotional, mental, and physical wellness. Those who are systems impacted suffer from higher rates of mental and emotional distress, this pandemic has only put more pressure on the stability and wellness of their lives. Furthermore, the closure of schools and afterschool programs have severed a connection for many young people, as they are not able to physically connect with their peers. Allowing children of incarcerated parents to speak to their loved ones is one way to connect during these uncertain, lonely times.

Currently, due to the ongoing public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Shelter in Place orders implemented at both the County and State levels, the Youth Commission is unable to meet to weigh in on this current legislation. However, given the importance of this legislation, the members of the Executive Committee of the Youth Commission wish to remind you of the Youth Commission's history of supporting the restorative and humane treatment of all incarcerated peoples. Video conferencing visits can support and maintain parent-child relationships and lessen the emotional toll that COVID19 children with incarcerated families are experiencing.

For all these reasons, the San Francisco Youth Commission urges you to forward this item to the full Board immediately, with a positive recommendation.

Sincerely,

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Josephine Cureton  
Chair  
San Francisco Youth Commission

*Signed on behalf of the membership of the Youth Commission's Executive Committee:*

Josephine Cureton  
Sarah Cheung  
Calvin Quick  
Amara Santos  
Crystal Chan

**From:** [aeboken](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORTING BOS Agenda Item #23 Urging the Sheriff's Department to Implement Virtual Visits for Children with Incarcerated Parents File #200431  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:45:59 PM

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors members

I am strongly supporting the implementation of virtual visits for children with Incarcerated parents.

Eileen Boken  
Chair, Land Use and Transportation Committee  
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods \*

\* For identification purposes only.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone