

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Family Violence Council]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to change the composition of the Family Violence Council; and establishing a sunset date for the Council, unless it is reauthorized by an Ordinance.

Existing Law

The Family Violence Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the Superior Court, and City departments regarding prevention and treatment of child abuse, domestic violence, and elder/dependent adult abuse. Among other duties, the Council recommends strategies to serve survivors of family violence, recommends methods of educating the public about family violence, compiles relevant data, and facilitates communication and cooperation between public and private agencies.

The Council has 18 designated seats: 14 local government officials or their designees and the heads of four community-based organizations or their designees. Three of the members representing community-based organizations serve as the co-chairs of the Council and also serve as the members of the Steering Committee, a three-person committee that sets policy for the Council. The Steering Committee has discretion to appoint three additional members to the Council.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would add six seats to the Council, to be filled by the following City officials or their designees: Chief of Juvenile Probation; Public Defender; Director of the Department of Animal Care and Control; Superintendent of San Francisco Unified School District; Human Resources Director; and Chief of the Fire Department. The ordinance would also provide that the Board of Supervisors could temporarily appoint an individual to fill a seat whenever one of the seats designated for a non-City representative remains empty for 60 days or longer.

The ordinance would clarify that the co-chairs of the Council and members of the Steering Committee would be the representatives from the Domestic Violence Consortium, the Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention, and the San Francisco Child Abuse Council.

The ordinance would set limits on the service of individuals representing community-based organizations on the Council. Starting in May 2015, no individual could serve as a Council member representing a community-based organization for more than six years out of any nine-year period.

FILE NO. 150083

The ordinance would also set general criteria for the appointees in the three additional Council seats appointed by the Steering Committee.

Under Board of Supervisors Rules of Order, Rule 2.21, the ordinance would also provide that the Council will automatically sunset on May 1, 2018 unless extended in a subsequent ordinance.

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