

## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Accept and Expend Grant - Amend the Annual Salary Ordinance - Retroactive - Crankstart Foundation - Kelson Foundation - Clean Slate Program Grant - \$250,000 and \$35,000 Respectively]

**Ordinance retroactively authorizing the Public Defender's Office to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Crankstart Foundation, and a grant in the amount of \$35,000 from Kelson Foundation, to expand by 25-30% the capacity of the Clean Slate Unit to meet the increased demand for Clean Slate services for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; and to amend the Annual Salary Ordinance No. 166-20 (Annual Salary Ordinance, File No. 200568 for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022) to provide for the addition of two grant-funded positions, 1 FTE in Class 8177 Attorney and 1 FTE in Class 8173 Legal Assistant.**

### Background Information

Recent criminal justice reform legislation, passed by the California Legislature in 2020, potentially will provide thousands of people with opportunities to remove significant barriers to employment and housing by allowing them the potential to terminate probation early, terminate sex offender registration, and to have a fair chance at licensing in certain occupations. The San Francisco Public Defender's Office ("Public Defender" or "PDR") applied to the Crankstart Foundation to double the capacity of its Clean Slate Unit in order to meet anticipated exponentially increased community demand to have criminal convictions expunged, felonies reduced to misdemeanors, probationary terms shortened, and sex offender registrations terminated for qualifying clients. The Public Defender was awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Crankstart Foundation and a grant in the amount of \$35,000 from Kelson Foundation, which is part of the Crankstart Foundation. In order for this new legislation to have its greatest and intended impact in removing barriers to employment and housing, relief must be provided to eligible San Franciscans as rapidly as possible. To efficiently accomplish this relief, the Public Defender's Clean Slate Unit seeks to add one full-time attorney and one full-time paralegal. Additionally, the Clean Slate Unit, plans to hold monthly community clinics. Each community clinic, in addition to being three to four hours long, typically triples the number applications the Unit receives for that week.

The Clean Slate Unit is partnering with the San Francisco District Attorney, the San Francisco Police Department and the A. Phillip Randolph Institute to reach the widest number of San Francisco residents as possible in communities most impacted by decades of mass incarceration. The grant will monitor and evaluate both the change in client capacity and the outcomes of the Clean Slate Unit's community clinics, due to the two additional full-time positions.

### Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance authorizes the Public Defender to retroactively accept and expend \$250,000 in grant funds from the Crankstart Foundation and \$35,000 in grant funds from the Kelson Foundation, for the purpose of expanding by 25-30% the capacity of the Clean Slate Unit to meet the increased demand of Clean Slate services due to the recent criminal justice reform legislation, which provides the potential to reduce probationary terms, to prohibit the use of certain felony convictions for licensing, and to terminate some sex offender registration after 10 and 20 year periods of registration. The proposed ordinance also authorizes the Public Defender to maximize use of available grant funds on program expenditures by not including indirect costs in the grant budget, and waiving indirect costs and to expend any interest earned in accordance with the terms under which the principal is received and expended.

The proposed ordinance also amends the Annual Salary Ordinance, Fiscal Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, to reflect the addition of two positions, including an attorney and a legal assistant.

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