

**From:** [So Young Lee](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Quan, Daisy \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Agenda #29  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:22:04 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good Afternoon:

I urge the Board to pass Supervisor Gordon Mar's resolution in support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphanthong this afternoon.

Danny and Sakhone have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment in using their experiences as formerly incarcerated to address existing barriers to reentry and to support fellow community members who are recently released from prison. It is absolutely critical for formerly incarcerated people to remain connected to their community to build and maintain a strong network of support for those reentering society. Your support would help them continue this work and stay here with their community and loved ones.

I respectfully ask that the Board passes the resolution to help and strength Danny and Sakhone's pardon campaigns. Please add this email to File number 200247.

Thank you,

**So Young Lee**  
*Staff Attorney*  
*Immigrant Rights Program*

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**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus**  
T (415) 848-7764  
F (415) 896-1702  
[soyoungl@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:soyoungl@advancingjustice-alc.org)  
[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)

**From:** [Nikkei Resisters](#)  
**To:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:00:47 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Yee, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Stefani,

We are Nikkei Resisters, an intergenerational coalition of organizers who use the legacy of WWII atrocities in the U.S and the Pacific.

We remember that over 120,000 members of our Japanese American communities were incarcerated by the United States based on racist and exploitative policies, and are committed to making sure this type of violent action never happens again.

Danny and Sakhone have been wonderful allies to our communities. Danny has helped fold hundreds of cranes and teach many more to participate in our community events remembering our history. We know that Danny and Sakhone are valuable members of our communities, and we urge you to say yes to the resolution so that can remain and to send a powerful message to the Trump administration that they cannot divide our communities.

We thank you in advance for your work in supporting this effort.

In community,

Nikkei Resisters

**From:** [Miya Sommers](#)  
**To:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:52:51 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Yee, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Stefani,

I'm writing to you to urge your support for agenda item 29 a "Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States."

I met Danny in 2016 when we were both working at the Asian Law Caucus, and have since then called him a close friend and more recently meet Sakhone at an event supporting Southeast Asian immigrants. I have seen both Danny and Sakhone's commitment to making their communities thrive through doing direct service work. They are fearless advocates who have turned their lives around, even after experiencing immense trauma and the failure of the United States to ensure support for their refugee families, and are deeply involved with helping the lives of other across the Bay Area, and the country.

In light of Trump's decision to being to target Hmong, Iu- Mien, Khmu, and Lao communities, some of our most vulnerable within Asian American communities, I ask for you to take this important stance and vote yes on this resolution.

Appreciate your time and consideration.

Warmly,

Miya Sommers

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**Miya Sommers**

Pronouns: they/she

[miyajsommers@gmail.com](mailto:miyajsommers@gmail.com)

*"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." -Arundhati Roy*

**From:** [Timothy Smith](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mar. Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Full Pardon for Community Activists Somdeng "Danny" Thogay and Sakhome Lasahangthong; please add to File number 200247  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:38:10 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to encourage you to support the full pardon of Danny and Sakhome. They have been rehabilitated, have contributed substantially to making our communities our safe, and should not be deported to Laos.

They are individuals who will make enrich our communities in diversity and compassion with those struggling on the margins.

In God's peace,

Rev. Timothy Smith  
Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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Rev. Deacon Timothy Smith  
[timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com](mailto:timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 415-713-3220

**From:** [Laurene Chan](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Full Pardon of Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:03:21 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**Please add this email to File number 200247.**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I fully support the resolution for FULL PARDON to Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong. I especially know of Mr. Lasaphangthong's extraordinary and intentional work in the community through his supervisor Heidi Wong, who is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and alumni of Donaldina Cameron House.

**FULL PARDON FOR THONGSY AND LASAPHANGTHONG!!**

Sincerely,

Laurene Chan

--

Laurene Chan

Director of Youth Ministries

[laurene@cameronhouse.org](mailto:laurene@cameronhouse.org) T 415-781-0401 x142

*(pronouns: she/her)*



**From:** [Danny Thongsy](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mar. Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please add to File number 200247, Agenda Item 29, Public comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:24:07 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

My name is Somdeng Danny Thongsy. **I am grateful for this resolution and I am in support of it.** I am a Bay Area resident and a community servant. I work at the Justice Reinvestment Coalition as their Campaign Coordinator. The JRC is a table composed of 18 Community Base Organizations whose missions are to prevent mass incarceration by advancing justice reinvestment and progressive criminal justice policies.

I am also a person who is formerly incarcerated and am currently facing deportation to Laos. A country which I have never set foot on, a country that my family fled its government during the secret war. Like many Southeast Asian refugees, my family fled the country for safety to live in a crowded refugee camp until we were admitted into the US.

Upon resettlement we did not have anything except for each other and the trauma of war. We were placed in a low income section of the city where poverty was prevalent, resources were scarce and over policing. I remember as a kid I was often teased and bullied by other kids for not having much and for looking different. When I was 17 years old, my older brother was murdered. I did not know how to cope with the grief of losing my brother nor did I know where to turn for help. This led me to make a horrible choice which resulted in my incarceration. Incarcerated, I sought therapy and found healing, transformation and accountability through spiritual practice. I explored my trauma through self-help workshops and began to truly understand the root causes of my behavior. I vowed to never cause the harm I once caused and made sure that others won't make the same mistake. So I became an advocate in self-help programs, and took on leadership roles by facilitating groups, bible studies and mentoring other prisoners one-on-one. I went back to school and graduated with a college degree in Social Science.

After two decades of incarceration, the California Board of Parole Hearings and Governor Brown, recognized my rehabilitation and that I am deemed. Unfortunately, upon my release from state prison because of my immigration status I was directly transferred over to DHS/ICE for deportation proceedings.

Since being home February 2017, I continued my role to give back and bring healing to the community as being an advocate for criminal justice reform and immigrant rights. I continued to share of my lived experience and spoke on panels, did community outreach, participated in community gathering, worked with local and state officials in immigration and

pardon cases, and work with elected officials at the national level to advocate against deportation.

**I am grateful for Supervisor Gordon Mar and the Board of Supervisors' support to prevent my deportation. It's true that some refugees made mistakes, but we've also paid the price for those mistakes. We've done everything the country has asked of us. I don't deny that what I did was serious. But we, as a society, must resist the urge to treat someone as the sum of past mistakes and instead recognize our common humanity and the possibility of rehabilitation.**

In Community,  
Danny Thongsy  
Pronoun: *He/Him/His*  
Campaigner/Coordinator  
[Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County](#)  
**Email:** [dthongsy@gmail.com](mailto:dthongsy@gmail.com)  
**Office:** 510-893-1377 Ext.1377



*"Budget Your Value"*

**From:** [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Miya Sommers](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:30:44 PM

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Thank you Miya for your e-mail. On behalf of President Yee, thank you for your letter of support. President Yee will be voting in favor of this Resolution today.

Best,

Jen

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**From:** Miya Sommers <miyajssommers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <andrew.mullan@sfgov.org>; Yan, Calvin (BOS) <calvin.yan@sfgov.org>; Low, Jen (BOS) <jen.low@sfgov.org>; Ho, Tim (BOS) <tim.h.ho@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Yee, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Stefani,

I'm writing to you to urge your support for agenda item 29 a "Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States."

I met Danny in 2016 when we were both working at the Asian Law Caucus, and have since then called him a close friend and more recently meet Sakhone at an event supporting Southeast Asian immigrants. I have seen both Danny and Sakhone's commitment to making their communities thrive through doing direct service work. They are fearless advocates who have turned their lives around, even after experiencing immense trauma and the failure of the United States to ensure support for their refugee families, and are deeply involved with helping the lives of other across the Bay Area, and the country.

In light of Trump's decision to being to target Hmong, lu- Mien, Khmu, and Lao communities, some of our most vulnerable within Asian American communities, I ask for you to take this important stance and vote yes on this resolution.



Appreciate your time and consideration.

Warmly,

Miya Sommers

-----

**Miya Sommers**

Pronouns: they/she

[miyajsommers@gmail.com](mailto:miyajsommers@gmail.com)

*"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." - Arundhati Roy*

**From:** [Nikkei Resisters](#)  
**To:** [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:31:40 PM

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Wonderful! Thank you!

On Tue, Mar 10, 2020 at 2:26 PM Low, Jen (BOS) <[jen.low@sfgov.org](mailto:jen.low@sfgov.org)> wrote:

Thank you for this e-mail. President Yee will be supporting this Resolution.

Jen

---

**From:** Nikkei Resisters <[nikkeiresisters@gmail.com](mailto:nikkeiresisters@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** Yee, Norman (BOS) <[norman.yee@sfgov.org](mailto:norman.yee@sfgov.org)>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org)>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <[ahsha.safai@sfgov.org](mailto:ahsha.safai@sfgov.org)>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <[catherine.stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:catherine.stefani@sfgov.org)>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <[board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS) <[gordon.mar@sfgov.org](mailto:gordon.mar@sfgov.org)>; Yan, Calvin (BOS) <[calvin.yan@sfgov.org](mailto:calvin.yan@sfgov.org)>; Ho, Tim (BOS) <[tim.h.ho@sfgov.org](mailto:tim.h.ho@sfgov.org)>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <[andrew.mullan@sfgov.org](mailto:andrew.mullan@sfgov.org)>; Low, Jen (BOS) <[jen.low@sfgov.org](mailto:jen.low@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy

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Dear Supervisor Yee, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Stefani,

We are Nikkei Resisters, an intergenerational coalition of organizers who use the legacy of WWII atrocities in the U.S and the Pacific.

We remember that over 120,000 members of our Japanese American communities were incarcerated by the United States based on racist and exploitative policies, and are

committed to making sure this type of violent action never happens again.

Danny and Sakhone have been wonderful allies to our communities. Danny has helped fold hundreds of cranes and teach many more to participate in our community events remembering our history. We know that Danny and Sakhone are valuable members of our communities, and we urge you to say yes to the resolution so that can remain and to send a powerful message to the Trump administration that they cannot divide our communities.

We thank you in advance for your work in supporting this effort.

In community,

Nikkei Resisters

**From:** [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Nikkei Resisters](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Yan, Calvin \(BOS\)](#); [Ho, Tim \(BOS\)](#); [Mullan, Andrew \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:26:23 PM

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Thank you for this e-mail. President Yee will be supporting this Resolution.

Jen

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**From:** Nikkei Resisters <nikkeiresisters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Yan, Calvin (BOS) <calvin.yan@sfgov.org>; Ho, Tim (BOS) <tim.h.ho@sfgov.org>; Mullan, Andrew (BOS) <andrew.mullan@sfgov.org>; Low, Jen (BOS) <jen.low@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 - Urging your support for Resolution to Grant Pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng Danny Thongsy

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Yee, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Stefani,

We are Nikkei Resisters, an intergenerational coalition of organizers who use the legacy of WWII atrocities in the U.S and the Pacific.

We remember that over 120,000 members of our Japanese American communities were incarcerated by the United States based on racist and exploitative policies, and are committed to making sure this type of violent action never happens again.

Danny and Sakhone have been wonderful allies to our communities. Danny has helped fold hundreds of cranes and teach many more to participate in our community events remembering our history. We know that Danny and Sakhone are valuable members of our communities, and we urge you to say yes to the resolution so that can remain and to send a powerful message to the Trump administration that they cannot divide our communities.

We thank you in advance for your work in supporting this effort.

In community,

Nikkei Resisters

**From:** [Adrian Leong](#)  
**To:** [Quan, Daisy \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Stopping deportations to Laos and other countries  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:41:11 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to support the resolution to call on Governor Newsome to grant a full pardon to Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy. Please add this comment to file number 200247.

San Francisco must stand up as a defender of immigrant rights in this political climate. CPA works with low-wage Chinese immigrants and we know that many undocumented folx work in our city. If you can set the right tone by voting to support this resolution, then more immigrant workers can be confident to speak up for themselves, and no more bosses can bend their workers to their will with the threat of deportation.

I really hope that you will stand with the low-wage immigrants of color. Thank you.

Kindly,  
adrian

--

Adrian Leong 梁皓宏 [he/they]  
TWC Community Organizer

Have you heard about the unpaid stolen wages at Kome? Support today by signing the [community petition!](#)

[Chinese Progressive Association](#) 華人進步會  
1042 Grant Avenue, 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94133



She led. So can you.

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Board President Norman Yee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors,  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl #244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Resolution Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy**

The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights writes to express our strong support for a resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States.

Based in Oakland, CA, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights works to advance racial and economic justice to ensure dignity and opportunity for low income people and people of color. The Ella Baker Center is also a partner organization of the Justice Reinvestment Collation of Alameda County, where Danny is employed and where Sakhone participates through our partner organization, Asian Prisoner Support Committee. The Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County is a collaborative of 18 social justice organizations committed to creating a fair and just public safety system based on effective practices that invest in our communities, our families, and our people.

Over the last few years, The Ella Baker Center has come to work closely with Danny & Sakhone, both of them strike us as very hard-working individuals with a deep passion for social justice. Sakhone served 20 years and was granted parole in 2018. Similarly, Danny served a 20-year sentence and was released in December 2016, though was immediately transferred to immigration detention. He was released from ICE in February 2017.

We are particularly concerned that due to a felony conviction Danny and Sakhone are both facing imminent deportation to a country either of them barely knows. Sakhone was born in Laos, but was separated from four out of his nine siblings at the age of 5 and lived at a refugee camp in Thailand for two years before arriving in the U.S. Likewise, Danny has never set foot in Laos, he was born in a refugee camp in Thailand & resettled in Stockton California as a toddler. Recently, the Trump administration sanctioned Laos to coerce them into taking deportees. A pardon is the only likely way to prevent deportation for Danny and Sakhone.

Today, Danny participates with enthusiasm and kindness in efforts to advance the rights of those who are marginalized. Danny has made numerous positive contributions to his community and society. Danny is a former fellow at the Asian American Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus. He engages in community outreach as a member of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, is active in his church community and interfaith organizations, volunteers extensively in the Bay Area such as helping with re-entry support and teaching origami to youth, and attends leadership workshops and conferences. In his job, Danny promotes community justice and safety through as a Campaigner/Coordinator at the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County.



**ELLA BAKER  
CENTER for  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

*She led. So can you.*

Sakhone works as an Ambassador for Asian Prisoner Support Committee and Outreach/Housing Navigation Manager for Family Bridges, cleaning streets in Oakland Chinatown and connecting homeless individuals with resources. He spearheaded a campaign to successfully move 38 individuals from the streets into the Oak Street Community Cabins.

There is tremendous community support for Danny & Sakhone, including support from key civic leaders such as State Senator Nancy Skinner & Assemblymember Rob Bonta. A deportation would be devastating for not just Danny & Sakhone, but for the entire community they serve. A pardon is the only likely way to ensure they can remain here in the US with their only family and community.

For these reasons the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights supports the pardon of Somdeng Danny Thongsy & Sakhone Lasaphangthong. We respectfully urge you to support a pardon as well. Please contact the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights at 510-428-3939 with any further questions or concerns

Sincerely,

Zach Norris  
Executive Director  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights



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**From:** Jose Bernal <jose@ellabakercenter.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** Yee, Norman (BOS)  
**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** Support Letter Urging Pardon of Sakhone & Danny  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support.Danny+Sakhone Signed.pdf; PastedGraphic-1.tiff

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Board President Norman Yee,

Please see attached letter of support for resolution to be voted today, resolution file [#200247](#), [Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you greatly,

--

Jose Bernal (pronouns: he/him)  
Organizing Manager, [Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#)  
1419 34th Ave, Suite 202 | Oakland, CA 94601 | 510.428.3939 ext:248

Click [HERE](#) to become a member of the Ella Baker Center and organize with us to win jobs not jails, books not bars, and healthcare not handcuffs.



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**From:** Jenny Zhao <jennyz@advancingjustice-alc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** public comment on resolution for Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong (file number 200247)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I'm writing in support of the resolution urging pardons of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong and condemning deportations to Laos. Please add my email to file number 200247.

I am a staff attorney at Asians American Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus and have known Danny for over three years. He was our office's inaugural Yuri Kochiyama fellow and has been a tireless advocate for policies that embrace the humanity of people impacted by incarceration and deportation. He is a kind, generous, and loyal friend and colleague and it would be unthinkable for him to be deported to Laos. At a time when the Trump administration is increasing its pressure on Laos to cooperate with U.S. deportations, our support for our community members Danny and Sakhone is more critical than ever.

**Jenny Zhao**  
*Litigation Staff Attorney*  
*Immigrant Rights Program*

---

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus**  
T (415) 848-7710  
[jennyz@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:jennyz@advancingjustice-alc.org)  
[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)

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**From:** Wei Lee <weilinlee89@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 11:16 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Quan, Daisy (BOS); Fewer, Sandra (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda item 29 - BOS meeting 3/10/20

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please add this email to the File number 200247

Dear Board President Yee and Members of the Board,

My name is Wei Lee, a San Francisco resident living in District 11. I have formerly worked at the Asian Law Caucus as the program coordinator for ASPIRE , the first pan-Asian undocumented group in the country. Now, I work as a peer counselor for Richmond Area Multi-Services (RAMS). I am writing this email to urge your support to pass the resolution in support of Danny and Sakhone gubernatorial pardon as well as condemning deportations of community members to Laos.

I have met Danny 4 years ago when we both worked at the Asian Law Caucus. I was impressed by his humility and commitment to serve others. He used his experiences to demystify common stereotypes about immigrants with criminal convictions and shed a light on their struggles that led them to this path. Danny is one of the most committed individuals I have known supporting diverse causes and community members. Danny's story is a reflection of the humane side we often forget when society fails to provide the necessary resources for people like him to succeed. Now, you have the power and influence to support him by joining his fight to stay with his community, friends and loved ones.

As a formerly undocumented immigrant youth who was at risk of deportation, I understand the uncertainty that Danny and Sakhone are feeling. Not knowing when ICE will come for you is a terrible sensation, nonetheless, Danny and Sakhone are always showing up for others. They can be found in the frontlines in rallies, community gatherings, and court hearings supporting others facing deportations.

Passing this resolution will be a crucial step as Danny and Sakhone are seeking a pardon from Governor Newsom, which will help halt their deportation orders, give them peace of mind and allow them to continue to contribute to our communities. I hope the full board can continue to show up for immigrant communities by supporting both these resilient refugees by passing this resolution.

Sincerely,  
Wei

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**From:** Sophie Pham <sttpham@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:09 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: File Number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I would like my email to be added to File Number 200247. I support the resolution calling for pardons for Danny and Sakhone because I believe deportations should be stopped, and families should stop being separated. Danny and Sakhone should not have to face retributions like this, which will cause impacts on them and everyone around them. Please, please, pardon Danny and Sakhone.

Thank you,  
Sophie P.

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**From:** Brenda Guzman <brendag@advancingjustice-alc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Public Comment (please add to File No. 200247)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express support for Supervisor Gordon Mar's resolution in support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong.

I am currently a second-year law student at UC Hastings, College of the Law and have been externing with the legal and civil rights organization, Asian Law Caucus (ALC). I met Danny and Sakhone as a result of my work with ALC.

Both Danny and Sakhone have inspired me and affirmed my desire to use my law degree to serve vulnerable communities. They are both incredible public speakers who eloquently share their experiences growing up as refugees. Following their releases, both Danny and Sakhone became community activists. Their resolve to not only improve themselves but also improve their entire communities makes me want to be a better member of my own community.

Thus, I hope you too will support Danny and Sakhone. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Guzman

---

**Brenda Guzman**

UC Hastings, College of the Law

J.D. Candidate | Class of 2021

[bguzman@uchastings.edu](mailto:bguzman@uchastings.edu)

[brendag@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:brendag@advancingjustice-alc.org)

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**From:** Carolyn Nguyen <carolyn.nguyen@cpasf.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:24 AM  
**To:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Board of Supervisors, (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Public comment - add to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom this may concern:

I am writing a public comment in support of the resolution to urge for a full pardon of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong. The deportation orders of Southeast Asians living in the US has been unreasonable and is deplorable. It is completely irresponsible to send Danny, Sakhone, and others back to lands they have never known, specifically because they were pushed out due to a war that the US encouraged and exacerbated in Southeast Asia. Danny and Sakhone were raised in America with limited resources and support, and like many others, have often had to resort with building community with those who relied on crime to survive. Since then, they have been accountable for their actions, have transformed their lives, and now dedicate their work to advocate and organize for our communities. I am hoping that pardoning Sakhone and Danny can set a precedent for the many other deportation cases that deserve a pardon as well, and I urge the Board of Supervisors to continue to advocate for this urgent cause.

Coming from a family of Vietnamese refugees myself, I know firsthand the deep trauma that war creates, and how that harms our community in so many different ways. The last thing we need is to be sent back to a country and further isolated from each other. We need further allyship and advocacy from the greater community, and continued resources to support us mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Please add this email to file number 200247.

Thank you,

Carolyn

Carolyn Nguyen  
*she/her pronouns*  
Youth Organizer | Chinese Progressive Association  
(510) 842-5076

Chinese Progressive Association  
1042 Grant Ave 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(415) 391-6986

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**From:** julie litwin <jblitwin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 11:13 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** please support the resolution requesting pardons for community leaders, Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**Please add this comment to File number 200247**

To the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in support the resolution in support of the pardons for community leaders, Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong.

I have gotten to know Danny through my synagogue's interfaith work on immigration justice issues and have heard him tell his story of trauma and transformation. I have been deeply impressed by Danny's passion for justice, his devotion to keeping families and communities together and his belief in the possibility of healing for those who have experienced many kinds of trauma. I have heard him speak eloquently about his work on behalf of others who are threatened with deportation to countries they have never known. I have also met Sakhone and learned about his past and all that he has done to rehabilitate and contribute to our community.

I am deeply troubled by the fact that our country contributed to the conditions in Laos that initially caused Danny and Sakhone's families to flee and then failed to provide them with needed support when they arrived in this country. Now these two individuals, and many more in similar circumstances, are being punished by our country yet again and threatened with deportation to Laos, far from all they've known and from family and community. These are good people who made mistakes many years ago but who are now leaders in the community.

Danny and Sakhone have gone through the arduous process of proving to the parole board that they are no longer a danger to society and should be released to the community. There is absolutely no reason for them to be deported. A pardon by Governor Newsom is the sole avenue to prevent their deportation. Please let Governor Newsom know that you, as elected city officials, want Sakhone and and Danny to be released and to be returned to our community.

Thank you!

Julie Litwin  
jblitwin@yahoo.com  
510-655-1803

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**From:** Michelle Foy <mich8423@fastmail.fm>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Quan, Daisy (BOS)  
**Subject:** please support Supervisor Mar's resolution to stop deportations

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

My name is Michelle Foy and I live in District 8 in San Francisco.

I am writing to urge you to support Supervisor Mar's resolution urging Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States. We must do all that we can to keep families together, to challenge the Federal deportation machine that disrupts families and communities and causes generations of harm.

Please add the email to File number 200247.

Thank you very much, Michelle Foy  
3868 23rd St.  
San Francisco, CA 94114



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**From:** Tiffany Monica Louie <louie.tiffanymonica@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:40 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Please add to file number 200247 - Please Keep Families Together

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge your support on Supervisor Mar's resolution to support pardons for Somdeng Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong, both who are facing deportation to Laos. Their families fled the war and resettled in CA when they were young. Because of past convictions, they're now facing the prospect of deportation. Given Trump's recent negotiations with Laos, there is a lot more concern that they and others could be at risk, and a pardon is the main way to prevent them from being deportable.

In light of the latest attempts of the Trump administration to increase deportations to Laos, for refugees who fled war years ago and have grown up in the US, I am appreciative of the support for this resolution led by Supervisor Mar and co-sponsored by Supervisors Fewer, Walton, Haney, Preston, Ronen.

Let's keep Danny and Sakhone home with family and community.

In community,  
Tiffany

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**From:** Ny Nourn <nyn@advancingjustice-alc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Please add my public comment to file number #200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Board of Supervisors,

My name is Ny and I work as a Community Advocate with Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, and I am also a San Francisco resident. I am submitting my support for file No. 200247, a resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States.

First, I would like to thank you again for unanimously passing file No. 190320, on April 2, 2019, a resolution respectfully urging the Trump Administration to stop the massive deportation of rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian nationals. Your bold leadership set precedence and as a model for other counties to adopt similar resolutions.

I strongly support resolution #200247, because I believe that as a community we are to uplift one another, especially in a time of need and urgency in which Sakhone and Somdeng need our support. Since I've known Sakhone and Somdeng, I understand the shared struggles of what it means to have the stigma of being a formerly incarcerated person, the label that society sees a person not by who they are today but by their worst past deed. And to be punished further with the threat of deportation of the deed in which they have already served time for is a form of extreme punishment. Somdeng and Sakhone are more than my friends, they are my fellow Asian Prisoner Support Committee members, my brothers, and my movement leaders who shouldn't be stripped of their humanity after surviving prison and ICE cages.

San Francisco and Oakland are both better with Somdeng and Sakhone as permanent residents and we must stand by them, to uplift their humanity, and to pass this resolution in urging Governor Newsom to grant a full pardon so that they can remain in the United States.

Thank you so much for your time and I respectfully urge you to vote "yes" on this resolution.

In community,

Ny

**Ny Nourn**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers)

*Community Advocate - Immigrant Rights Program*

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus**

Tel: (415) 896-1701 ext: 130

[nyn@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:nyn@advancingjustice-alc.org)  
[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)

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**From:** David Crosson <david48ec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:19 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Pardoning of Somdeng Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: File number 200247

As a member of the Justice Ministries at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin, San Francisco, and as a resident of San Francisco, I urgently request your support for the resolution upon which you will vote at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon requesting pardon for Somdeng Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong. The argument for their pardon is incontrovertible, as clearly stated within the resolution. If you are unwilling to do the right thing, do the humane thing, and request full pardon for these people, **then our claim to be a sanctuary city is nothing but a fraud, a false claim that does nothing more than encourage our self-regard at the expense of others.** Please, please, support this resolution.

David Crosson  
225 Lake St., SF  
408-316-0478

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**From:** Hannah Lee <hannah.lee@cpasf.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:10 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Pardon Danny and Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I am writing a public comment in support of pardoning Danny and Sakhone. Please consider the ways that deportation hurts families and communities. It is evident that both Danny and Sakhone have learned from their previous actions and have been working hard to improve the lives of those in their community through education.

Please add this email to file number 200247.

Thanks,

--

Hannah Lee  
Operations and Administrative Assistant  
Chinese Progressive Association 華人進步會  
1042 Grant Avenue, 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94133  
Office: 415.391.6986 ext 136  
Mobile: 415.939.8212

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**From:** Menninga-Fong 翁Alizarin 寶心 <alizarinmenningafong@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:54 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Pardon Danny and Sakhone!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Gordon Mar's office and the Board of Supervisors,

Please add this email to file number 200247.

It is absolutely outrageous to deport Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong to Laos, a country where they have no support or connections and where they face potential violence and death. These people are my community members and could be my family. They are loved and supported here in California, and it would be wrong to do anything but **PARDON THESE PEOPLE**. Please do what is right and set a precedent for all the other wrongful threats of deportation to Laos that our community faces.

Many thanks,  
Alizarin Menninga-Fong

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**From:** Don Misumi <don.misumi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS)  
**Subject:** In support of the resolution urging the pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please add this email to File number 200247

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I am writing to you to express my strong support for the resolution urging Gavin Newsom to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy full pardons so that they can remain in this country without fear of deportation.

I am a lifelong resident of San Francisco and have been active in the Japanese community and the Richmond District neighborhood where I grew up. The experience of my family having been incarcerated during WWII, despite being loyal US citizens and the repercussions that they faced trying to rebuild their lives has left me with a deep sensitivity to social justice issues. When I heard about the struggles these young men have faced, I was outraged. They have been victimized by a US imperialism that drove their families from their homeland only to be criminalized in this country. Despite this, they have survived, turned their lives around and have in fact helped others do the same. That the US is now trying to deport them is the ultimate in villainy. They are owed reparation, not deportation. For the sake of humanity, do the right thing and pass this resolution.

Don Misumi

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**From:** Nancy Truong <nancytruong2811@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:32 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** In Support Of Pardons for Danny, Sakhone, and Condemning Deportations to Laos

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

This is a written comment in support of the resolution to pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy, as well as condemn the deportations to Laos. Please add to file number 200247.

As a child born in Vietnam with parents who lived through the wars in Southeast Asia, I have experienced how war and trauma affects a person. I was lucky enough to be raised in a nurturing environment, have access to education, and resources that have helped me to become the person I am today. Because of racism, systemic inequality, poverty, and many other barriers, not everyone is able to have access to those things.

Danny and Sakhone have done their time and have transformed themselves and their trauma. They are community leaders and have been an integral part of the community for Asian Pacific Islanders who are currently or formerly incarcerated, as well as the larger movement of grassroots organizations in the Bay Area. I believe in keeping families and communities together. I believe that Danny and Sakhone should be able to stay here, in their community that they have spent time building over the past years, and should be able to be seen through what they bring to our community, rather than through their past wrongs. I urge all supervisors to support this resolution.

Best,  
Nancy



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**From:** Sacha Maniar <sachamaniar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:21 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** I Support the resolution calling for pardons for Danny and Sakhone!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Board of Supervisors,  
I am a firm supporter of the resolution calling for pardons for Danny Thongsy and Sakhone.  
Danny is a member of the community and does a lot of work here in San Francisco and the Bay Area as a whole. His home is not (and has never been) in Laos.  
They both deserve to continue live here, where they have strong ties and roots.  
Please support them and pass the resolution!!!

--

Sacha Maniar  
**CUNY School of Law**, Class of 2021  
*RPCV Nepal 2016*  
*UC San Diego 2013*  
[sachamaniar@gmail.com](mailto:sachamaniar@gmail.com)

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**From:** Heidi Wong <heidi\_k\_wong@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** For File #200247: Support Resolution to Pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**Please add this message to File #200247.**

Dear SF Board of Supervisors~

My name is Heidi Wong and I am a third-generation member of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, San Francisco as well as a second-generation participant and former Board President of Donaldina Cameron House, San Francisco. Thank you for your years of support for these two institutions and the Chinatown community at-large.

I am asking for your support on today's resolution requesting the Governor's full pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong, a resident of San Francisco.

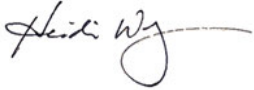
I am Sakhone's direct supervisor at Family Bridges, Inc., a nonprofit agency located in Oakland Chinatown, CA. I first met Sakhone in February 2019, when he began volunteering for our Community Health Home Program as our primary street outreach worker. Since October 2019, Sakhone has been employed with Family Bridges, and after 3 months, I promoted him to be our full-time Program Outreach and Housing Navigation Manager. In this capacity, he supervises two employees and manages our outreach and housing navigation subcontract provided at a new site that opened late January 2020 -- the Oak Street Community Cabins, a City of Oakland program that provides 38-emergency shelter beds to the unhoused in the Oakland Chinatown/Jack London area. On the first day of opening, Sakhone moved in an unprecedented 20 unhoused, most of whom he had been outreaching to for the past year, resulting in 100% occupancy at that time. Within the next two weeks and upon the delivery of the additional cabins, he outreached to and spearheaded the move-in for the additional 18 unhoused. Sakhone is committed to the success of the cabin residents and is onsite 6 days a week.

Sakhone is a crucial member of our team. Through establishing trusting relationships with individuals in need, Sakhone makes meaningful positive impacts and is changing the trajectory of many lives, particularly the unhoused. He instills hope and encourages individuals to envision a healthier pathway for themselves; a pathway that they deserve and can achieve. The success of our Community Health Home Program generally, and the Oak Street Community Cabins specifically, is reliant upon Sakhone's leadership and direct interactions with our clients and cabin residents.

Please support today's resolution requesting Governor Gavin Newsom's full pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong so he can remain in his home in the United States and continue improving our community.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Wong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

~Heidi Wong.

Program Director

Community Health Home Program

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**From:** Karissa Tom <karissastom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:08 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** Comment on file number 200247 - Support Danny and Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support for the resolution supporting pardons Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong. Danny and Sakhone are invaluable community members who advocate for a more just criminal justice system despite and because of, their own experiences with incarceration. They deserve to stay with their families and loved ones here in the US, as opposed to being deported to a country they don't know.

As a life-long San Franciscan, I am heartened by Supervisors Mar, Lee-Fewer, Walton, Haney, Preston, and Ronen's co-sponsorship for this resolution and I hope the rest of the Board will join them in supporting this resolution. Voting for this resolution is immeasurably helpful in our continued appeal to Governor Newsom to pardon Danny and prevent this unjust deportation.

I would like this comment to be added to File number 200247.

Thank you.

In Solidarity,  
Karissa Tom  
District 3 resident

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**From:** Ener Chiu <enerchiu@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:02 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** Comment on file # 200247 - supporting Item 29 re: Danny and Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Supervisors:

Please support the resolution calling for pardons for Danny and Sakhone. I work with Sakhone here in Oakland Chinatown, and I see his positive influence on our community every day. His compassionate work with homeless populations in Oakland has made our community safer and built bridges between our housed and unhoused neighbors.

Thank you for your time,  
Ener Chiu

---

**From:** Anton Kovalyov <anton@kovalyov.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Comment in support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I'd like to request that the comment below is added to File number 200247.

I urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to support a resolution support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong and condemning deportations to Laos. The city of San Francisco is proudly a sanctuary city, and so is the State of California. Deporting anyone to a country they haven't been to since they were five is, simply put, cruel. I urge the Board to look within, for their moral and ethical values, and support this resolution. Thank you!

Anton Kovalyov

---

**From:** Meghan Schwartz <meghan.schwartz@stanfordalumni.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Fewer, Sandra (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29: Please support Supervisor Mar's Pardon Resolution (add to File #200247)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please add to File number 200247 for BOS meeting 3/10 Agenda Item 29 (resolution calling for pardons)

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing on behalf of our friend and valued community member, Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy, to urge you to support Supervisor Mar’s resolution (agenda item 29 on 3/10) calling on Governor Newsom to grant Danny and his fellow community member, Sakhone, a pardon. A pardon is the only means by which Danny and Sakhone can avoid imminent deportation to Laos, a country neither of them knows. (Please add my letter to File number 200247.)

Both Danny and Sakhone’s families settled in California as refugees from war-torn Laos when they were very young children. Both men experienced the trauma of being refugees and became entangled in the criminal justice system as teenagers and young adults. Both men paid their debt to society with 20 years in prison and both were granted parole after bettering themselves and their fellow inmates through education and community programs. Upon their releases, both men have dedicated their lives to continuously serving their communities and improving the lives of others. They have become tireless advocates and supported others in finding help even as they faced their own hardships. Due to their immigration statuses, both Danny and Sakhone face imminent deportation to Laos, a country they do not know. The only means of rectifying this unjust situation and keeping Danny and Sakhone in the community that truly loves, values and needs them is to grant them pardons. These are exactly the type of community members we need who set a great example for others facing difficult choices and supporting our communities in fighting for justice. Beyond that, it is the right thing to do. We can’t allow politics to tear our communities apart and strip us of compassion and forgiveness for our neighbors.

We have had the pleasure of getting to know Danny over the past couple of years. We have worked side by side with him at The Quest for Democracy Lobby Day in Sacramento in 2018 and 2019, as well as on the Audit the Sheriff Campaign in Alameda County. Danny always thinks of others before himself and is reluctant to ask for help for his own situation. We have seen him work tirelessly for his community, advocate for criminal justice reform, particularly for young people, and show up whenever his is asked. There is never a meeting too late, an event too far or a public figure too intimidating for Danny to take part in advocating for justice. What truly stands out about Danny is his great humility and kindness. He approaches everyone with an open heart and listening ears. We need more people like Danny in our community. Danny has been a particularly strong mentor to my 10-year-old daughter, Lila, by including her in advocacy work, showing interest in her, and even

completing an interview for her class project. In short, Danny's absence would leave a huge hole in our hearts and the lives of so many in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Please support our community's fight for justice and set an example for all those seeking sanctuary in California by calling for Governor Newsom to do the right thing by pardoning Danny and Sakhone. Thanks for all of your work.

Sincerely,  
Meghan and Lila Schwartz  
12 Hillcrest Ct.  
Berkeley, CA  
978-239-7926  
[Meghan.schwartz@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:Meghan.schwartz@stanfordalumni.org)



---

**From:** Annie Souvannavong <souvannavongannie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 11:05 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Subject:** Add to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please add my vote to "File number 200247". This is item number 29 for tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting.

I stand with Refugees who deserve second chances.

Thank you! #stand4danny #leavesakhonealone #pardonrefugees

Annie Souvannavong

--

Annie Souvannavong  
Phone: [\(408\) 771-1280](tel:4087711280)  
CA License # OD35343

---

**From:** Nghiep Lam <ke@asianprisonersupport.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS); Fewer, Sandra (BOS); Yee, Norman (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mandelman, Rafael (BOS); Safai, Ahsha (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS)  
**Subject:** Add to File number 200247.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Greetings,

My name is Nghiep. I'm the Reentry Coordinator for the organization Asian Prisoner Support Committee. Our organization has been around for 15 years. We provide Reentry Services to current and formerly incarcerated individuals. I have been working as the Reentry Coordinator for the past four years and have been doing advocacy work for the past 15 years.

**I am writing in support of Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong.** I have known Danny and Sakhone and for years and witnessed their amazing community advocacy. They stood up to defend the deportation of our Cambodian and Vietnamese communities. They push hard to find housing and employment for our houseless and jobless communities. Their deportation would be a huge loss for our community.

**I am opposing the deportation of people from Laos and other countries.** Each person deported is separating families. We are not deporting illegal aliens. These are contributing members of society. They paid taxes like every Americans. They contribute to the development of communities and cities. Who will do their work once they are gone? Immigrants are the backbone to the growth of America and its economy.

I am asking you to pass this resolution to Stop Laos deportation.

All the best,

**Nghiep "Ke" Lam | Reentry Coordinator** (*Pronouns: He/Him/His*)  
Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC)  
[416 8th St., Oakland, CA. 94607](#)

[ke@asianprisonersupport.org](mailto:ke@asianprisonersupport.org)  
[Like](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Donate](#) | [Website](#)



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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment to Support Resolution (File # 200247 Urging Gov. Newsom to Grant Pardons)

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Nicole Wong <nicolew@advancingjustice-alc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 10:43 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment to Support Resolution (File # 200247 Urging Gov. Newsom to Grant Pardons)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

My name is Nicole Wong. I was born and raised in San Francisco. I lived in Districts 1 and 2, and went to school in Districts 1, 2, and 4 until I was 18 and currently work in San Francisco Chinatown at a civil rights nonprofit that advocates on behalf of our Asian American and immigrant communities.

I write urging you to support resolution # 200247 (please add this email to file #200247). This resolution asks Governor Newsom to grant full pardons to two beloved community members Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy.

Danny was just concluding his Yuri Kochiyama fellowship when I joined Asian Law Caucus. Danny is a compassionate, committed, and inspiring community leader that has truly applied his experiences navigating the criminal justice system to his advocacy work on behalf of other incarcerated Southeast Asian community members.

I remember the first time I met Sakhone - at last year's Free SF anniversary celebration, not long after he had been released from prison. Since then, he has exhibited a fierce dedication to serving the Oakland Chinatown community.

Both Danny and Sakhone's stories are shaped by similar histories and systems of oppression. Both were displaced from Laos at a young age due to the war, experienced childhood trauma, and got caught up in the criminal justice system before age 25. Both also spent years in prison focused on rehabilitation and personal growth, leaving prison ready to serve their communities. Both face imminent deportation to Laos, a country that Danny has never set foot in and Sakhone fled at a young age.

A pardon is the only way that we can keep Danny and Sakhone home. Please give them the opportunity to stay with their family, friends, and community here in the Bay Area. We need leaders like Danny and Sakhone who know how

important it is to change unjust systems because they themselves have lived through them, all the while growing warrior hearts that are tireless, selfless, and transcendently loving.

I urge you to please vote in support of this resolution tonight.

Thank you,

--

**Nicole Wong 王雅斯**

*Community Advocate - Voting Rights*

she/her/hers

---

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus**

D (415) 848-7715

[nicolew@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:nicolew@advancingjustice-alc.org)

[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: added to File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Sami Lamont <samilamont@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 9:12 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** added to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to our of concern for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy. I urge you to request that Governor Gavin Newsom Pardon Danny to allow him to stay in the US. Deporting Danny to Laos would mean separating him from his family and dropping him into a country he has never set foot in. It is inhumane, and completely contradicts the resolution the Board passed on April 2nd. Additionally, deporting Danny would be a huge of leadership to loss to his own community. I hope you decide to support immigrants and pass this resolution to support Danny.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Lamont

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: In Support of Danny & Sakhone

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Teo Saragi <teofanny.saragi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** In Support of Danny & Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

I'm writing to express my support of the resolution to support pardons for Danny and Sakhone, both of whom are facing deportation to Laos. Danny and Sakhone are both refugees of war who grew up in the U.S. and contribute to their local community.

Please pass the resolution so we can keep Danny and Sakhone home with family and community. Please also add my email to File Number 200247.

Thank you so much!

Best,

Teo

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Joan Marie O'Donnell <JO'Donnell@mercywmw.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 7:20 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

As a member of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and as a Sister of Mercy of the Americas, I urge your support of the resolution that will grant pardon to Somdeng Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong who have shown themselves to be outstanding contributing members to our society and to keeping our communities safe. Without your help and the pardon of our Gov. Gavin Newsom they risk deportation to their country of Laos and to the risk of their lives.

Thank you for your support and for all you do for those seeking to live a dignified life and to be of service to others.

Sister Joan Marie O'Donnell  
Sister of Mercy



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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:34 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: added to File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Saporiti, Julian <julian\_saporiti@brown.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 7:06 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** added to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Julian Saporiti. A musician and PhD candidate at Brown University. I met Danny at a concert I performed in 2018 and the University of San Francisco. I sing about immigrants and refugees. My mother is a refugee from Southeast Asia who for a long time lived in San Francisco after she had to flee Vietnam. She was lucky as she has never faced deportation. But she, like you and myself, have made mistakes in life. Perhaps not "criminal" but like us all, she has made missteps, learned from them and made herself into someone I view as a model American.

I view Danny no differently. I personally do not believe a person who commits a crime and reforms themselves, which is an incredible act of bravery and humanity within itself, should be treated with less respect and dignity than anyone else. To think that Danny and Sakhone could be sent to Laos, a country they do not know, deported from their home, where they has made themselves into a good men and become a role models for many "Americans" such as myself, it is hard to consider. I hope you will also see that in this particular situation, these people should remain here where he can continue to do good and be a strong part of the fabric of your city.

My mom did not return to Vietnam until 2013, forty five years after she left. When she did, it was not her home. That part of the world has faced so much terror and trauma that it is amazing that more of us in that refugee population haven't made bigger missteps. For those of us who have, especially those of us who have reformed ourselves, I would hope that "crime" and reformation would be met with kindness and respect and understanding. My mom had no close family in Vietnam and the country had fundamentally changed. America was her home. America is Danny's home. It is Sakhone's home. As their neighbor, as a historian who has examined immigration for years, as a person who believes in opportunity, forgiveness and kindness, I urge you to pardon both Danny and Sakhone.

This should be added to File number 200247 and will appear 29th on tomorrow's docket.

Sincerely,

Julian Saporiti

--

Julian L. Saporiti

[nonoboyproject.com](http://nonoboyproject.com)

PhD Candidate in American Studies, Brown University

MA in Ethnomusicology, Brown University

Lecturer, University of Wyoming & Colorado College

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 6:29 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Please add this email to File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Joyce Nakamura <nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Please add this email to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Resending because of bounce back for Safai and Stefani email addresses.

On Monday, March 9, 2020, 01:34:37 PM PDT, Joyce Nakamura <[nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Board:

I have been resident of the city of San Francisco for over 35 years and have lived in District 3 for 30 of those years.

I am writing to urge your support for file number 200247, the resolution requesting that Governor Newsom pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy so that they can remain in the U.S. with their families and community.

Barring a change in the unjust U.S. immigration system which is likely not to happen in the immediate future, a pardon is the only way that can prevent the deportation of Sakhone, Danny and many others who may face this situation. My heart is heavy for Phillip Clay, a Korean American adoptee who was deported back to Korea in 2012 away from his wife and children and who committed suicide in a country he had no ties with.

Sakhone and Danny have paid their debt to society by serving most of their lives in prison. To their credit, they are very important members of the Asian Pacific Islander American community, working for better treatment and lives for community members. I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with these two individuals through their community work and appreciate their commitment to make a better life for their families and community. They belong in their home, the United States of America to continue making contributions to our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joyce Nakamura  
1469 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

[nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 6:27 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 29 for next BOS mtg  
**Attachments:** Sakhone and Somdeng Resolution.doc

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Jenny Tighe <jenny.tighe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 5:25 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 29 for next BOS mtg

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The Trump Administration is getting ready to deport Hmong, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao refugee communities by pressuring their countries to accept deportees. Last week, Supervisor Mar's office introduced a resolution condemning this decision, and highlighted two stories, Danny's and Sakhone's. Each person needs a pardon from the Governor to find relief from deportation.

Will your office make sure that community leaders like Danny and Sakhone can remain with their loved ones here? Please vote yes on the resolution. These two individuals are dedicated members of their community and the Bay Area would feel this loss.

Please add this email to "File number 200247."

Thanks,  
Jenny Tighe

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 6:25 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Resolution in Support of Pardons for Danny & Sakhone

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** May Lim <limxmay@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support for Resolution in Support of Pardons for Danny & Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

Please add my following comment to File number 200247:

I strongly urge you to vote YES tomorrow on the resolution supporting pardons for Danny and Sakhone, two community members who are integral to the API community in the Bay Area.

I met Sakhone through our mutual involvement at Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC), a non-profit in Oakland that assists current and formerly incarcerated folks with re-entry, education, jobs, legal aid, advocacy, basic needs, and so much more. Very soon after he was released from prison (in the Spring of 2019), Sakhone accepted an invitation from me to speak as a panelist for an event I was hosting at my school, UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, where I am a Master of Public Policy student. The event was part of a week-long symposium of events focused on race & policy. Sakhone shared his story with students and community members, and he and the other panelists discussed criminal justice policy in the context of race. Sakhone's story and contributions, as well as his genuinely kind and positive demeanor, was extremely moving to us all. Even after all the hardships he had faced, he continued to persevere and encouraged us to continue in our education in order to live the youth he wished he could have lived.

After this initial meeting, I continued keeping up with Sakhone at APSC meetings, where I saw he was thriving and doing so much good in our community. He has been an Oakland Chinatown Ambassador for quite a while, keeping our community safe, clean, and civically active. He spoke again as a panelist at our school this last Fall of 2019, with other formerly incarcerated panelists, once again sharing about their stories and the intersections of race, gender, class, and status when it came to the criminal justice system. He again moved the audience greatly, and people were extremely touched and thankful for the gift he gave us in being so vulnerable and authentic in sharing his story and words of advice.

I have never met someone who is so positive, so kind, and so willing to help no matter what. Sakhone has served his full sentence and deserves to stay in the only country he truly knows. He is a vital part and asset of our community, and his contributions are invaluable.

He now faces deportation at the hands of Trump's order, but you have the power to help prevent that. Please vote YES!

Sincerely,  
May

**May Lim**  
Master of Public Policy Candidate 2020  
Goldman School of Public Policy  
Huichin Ohlone Land - University of California, Berkeley  
[509.270.8600](tel:509.270.8600) | [limxmay@berkeley.edu](mailto:limxmay@berkeley.edu)

---

**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 6:16 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Requesting your attention Tuesday to the petition to Governor Gavin Newsom for a full pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Martha Larsen <marthalarsen1118@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 5:54 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Requesting your attention Tuesday to the petition to Governor Gavin Newsom for a full pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors:

Please add this email to File #200247.

You have received documents concerning the petition to Governor Gavin Newsom for a full pardon for Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy. Southeast Asians have been terribly harmed by USA wars in their countries. Then when refugees of people from Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia came to this country they were badly treated and had great difficulty integrating into this country because of racism and general lack of acceptance. But now most younger refugees from Laos do not know the language or customs of their country of origin. They would not be well accepted in their country of origin and could expect violence and even death. Sakhone Lasaphangthong was born in war-torn Laos, was separated from his family at an early age and sent to a refugee camp in Thailand before being sent to the California. So, this young boy who was traumatized by the aftermath of the war in Laos, grew up toughing it out in a rough neighborhood. Communities of color were targets of strict crime policies which resulted in many being incarcerated. Thus, Lasaphangthong wound up in the criminal justice system at age 22 for second degree murder. He served 20 years of a 30-year sentence before being granted parole. Lasaphangthong transformed his life, devoting his time to attaining three associate degrees and convincing some 300 other prisoners to continue their educations. Following his release, he made enormous contributions to his community and society working with other Asian prisoners and the homeless in San Francisco and Oakland. He is now facing imminent deportation to Laos which is now an alien country to him and being again punished for a situation of war and deprivation for which he was not responsible as a child.



Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after his family fled the war in Laos and later resettled in Stockton, California. Here as a child, growing up in a rough neighborhood with gangs, he experienced the violent death of his brother. He was incarcerated as a minor at the age of 17 for second degree murder.

During his 20-year incarceration, Thongsy transformed his life. He had clean disciplinary record, graduated with a high school and college degree, joined and facilitated numerous self-help programs, mentored others to make positive choices, found supportive spirituality and religious studies and advocated for youth in the criminal justice system.

When he was released, Thongsy made numerous positive contributions to his community and society, beginning with a fellowship at Asian Law Caucus (AJC-ALC), engaging in community outreach for Asian prisoners, being active in his church community and interfaith organizations, volunteering in youth programs, attending leadership workshops and conferences, and promoting community justice and safety as a Campaigner/Coordinator at the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County.

Thongsy is facing imminent deportation to Laos, a country where he has never lived.

**Pardon is one of the only ways to prevent deportation, and would give Lasaphangthong and Thongsy the chance to remain in the United States and remain as contributing members of society.**

On April 2, 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed File No. 190320, which is a resolution respectfully urging the Trump Administration to stop the massive deportation of rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian nationals; now, therefore, be it

The City and County of San Francisco supports an immigration system that keeps families together and does not determine a person’s value by their immigration status or whether they have been incarcerated. The City and County of San Francisco condemns the deportation of Southeast Asian refugees in the United States, especially ethnic minorities, and does not support the removal of Lasaphangthong and Thongsy from the U.S.

I ask that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors request that Governor Gavin Newsom pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy so they can remain in their homes in the United States and continue to improve our community.

I also request that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Federal and State Representatives in San Francisco with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of the resolution you were given and will meet about on Tuesday, March 10th.

Sincerely,  
Martha Larsen  
828 30th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94121

*Give us bread, but give us roses too.* [Slogan of women woolen mill workers -Bread and Roses Strike, Lawrence, MA 1912.]

*But when the melancholy fit shall fall . . . Then glut they sorrow on a morning rose.* - John Keats.

---

**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: 3/9/20 Meeting Agenda Item 29

**Categories:** 200247

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Xi <joyceyi11@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 12:28 PM  
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
Cc: Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
Subject: 3/9/20 Meeting Agenda Item 29

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I am writing to submit a comment for Agenda #29 on tomorrow's BOS full board meeting, and ask that this email be added to File number 200247. I support the resolution introduced by Supervisor Gordon Mar.

Friends and colleagues had planned on being there to support the resolution for governor's pardons for community members Somdeng Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong who are currently facing deportation to Laos, but won't be present due to COVID-19 guidance. The Trump administration's recent negotiations with Laos to increase deportations have created fear for Danny and Sakhone, as well as other community members. Their families were refugees escaping war in Laos, also the most bombed country per capita due to US intervention during the Vietnam War era. I believe they deserve to stay here and not be separated from their families, and a pardon is their main hope for this. That's why I support the resolution.

Danny is a close friend of mine, and we used to work together at the Asian Law Caucus. We just celebrated our birthdays together since they are a day apart. He is a kind, giving, and wonderful person and has done a lot to transform his life after making poor decisions as a youth facing the trauma of growing up poor and escaping war. Today, he is giving back to community, assisting others facing deportation, those coming home from prison, and local youth, and spreading positivity in the Bay Area and beyond. Sakhone is another valued community member I have met through the Asian Prisoner Support Committee. Similarly, he has transformed his life and has been doing a lot of positive work in the community such as assisting those who are unhoused and mentoring others. We need both of them here-- it would be a shame if they were sent to Laos, where they have never been and don't have ties. Thank you for any support for both of their pardons and this resolution!

Best,  
Joyce Xi

---

**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:16 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Please add this email to File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

---

**From:** Joyce Nakamura <nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; ahsha.sfai@sfgov.org; ccatherine.stefani@sfgov.org  
**Subject:** Please add this email to File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board:

I have been resident of the city of San Francisco for over 35 years and have lived in District 3 for 30 of those years.

I am writing to urge your support for file number 200247, the resolution requesting that Governor Newsom pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy so that they can remain in the U.S. with their families and community.

Barring a change in the unjust U.S. immigration system which is likely not to happen in the immediate future, a pardon is the only way that can prevent the deportation of Sakhone, Danny and many others who may face this situation. My heart is heavy for Phillip Clay, a Korean American adoptee who was deported back to Korea in 2012 away from his wife and children and who committed suicide in a country he had no ties with.

Sakhone and Danny have paid their debt to society by serving most of their lives in prison. To their credit, they are very important members of the Asian Pacific Islander American community, working for better treatment and lives for community members. I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with these two individuals through their community work and appreciate their commitment to make a better life for their families and community. They belong in their home, the United States of America to continue making contributions to our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joyce Nakamura

1469 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
[nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:15 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment for Agenda Item 29 (File number 200247)

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Casey Tran <caseyt@advancingjustice-alc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item 29 (File number 200247)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

My name is Casey Tran and I am a friend and former colleague of Danny Thongsy. I am writing in support of Danny who faces deportation to Laos, a country that he has never set foot in and has no familial ties to. In fact, Danny was born in a refugee camp in Thailand during the Vietnam War, the same war that forced my parents to flee to America to seek safety. This is a deeply personal issue to me and I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in support of Danny and Sakhone Lasaphangthong.

I remember the moment that I met Danny at Asian Law Caucus (ALC). He was wearing his Yuri Kochiyama t-shirt and was eager to learn and give back to his community. During his time at ALC, Danny supported other individuals and families impacted by incarceration and deportations and advocated for policies to uplift our communities. He has led actions in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building here in downtown San Francisco and lobbied for the CA Values Act in Sacramento. Danny is a tireless advocate for immigrants and refugees, and always puts the well-being of others first. He is continuing to empower his community through his work at Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County.

Outside of work, I have known Danny as a good friend. We have bonded together over our love of poetry and delicious food. I can always count on Danny to have my back.

Danny is not the same kid he was when he committed his crime. He has grown into a thoughtful, caring, and honest man. He deserves a second chance and should not be punished twice for the mistake he made when he was a youth. If Danny were to be deported, it would be a huge loss for his family, friends, and community. Both Danny and Sakhone deserve to stay with their community in California.

San Francisco has the opportunity to resist the Trump Administration's inhumane immigration policies. I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass this resolution and stand in solidarity with Southeast Asian and immigrant communities. **Please add this email to File number 200247.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Casey Tran

*pronouns: she/her*

Development Coordinator

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

T (415) 848-7701 | [caseyt@advancingjustice-alc.org](mailto:caseyt@advancingjustice-alc.org)

[www.advancingjustice-alc.org](http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org)

[Make a donation to Advancing Justice - ALC today.](#)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:14 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Katie Dixon <katie@prisonerswithchildren.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 2:55 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I would like to show support for Danny Thongsy, for a full pardon.

I've know Danny for two years now, and This is a person who exemplies what it means to navigate through each and every system designed to crush him.

Danny is a pillar in the community.  
As the coordinator for our JRC table, he leads by example.

Please support a resolution for Danny.

KD



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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:13 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment in Support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Julia Z. Marks <juliazmarks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 3:03 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment in Support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to strongly urge you to pass the resolution in support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong and condemning deportations to Laos. Mr. Thongsy and Mr. Lasaphangthong are valued members of our community and should not be deported. I know Mr. Thongsy through my work at Asian Law Caucus and know of Mr. Lasaphangthong through my colleagues and friends. It would be unjust to force Mr. Thongsy and Mr. Lasaphangthong from their home here in California. We must all stand together to fight their deportation; your support for this resolution will help in that fight.

Please add this email to file no. 200247.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,  
Julia Marks

--

Julia Z. Marks  
[juliazmarks@gmail.com](mailto:juliazmarks@gmail.com)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of resolution In support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong and condemning their deportations to Laos

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Roni Chahal <rondeep.chahal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Quan, Daisy (BOS) <daisy.quan@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support of resolution In support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong and condemning their deportations to Laos

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Please add this email to File number 200247

Hi SF Board of Supervisors,

I lived in SF for 11 years and even voted for several of you. I find the idea that we are going to deport people who have known nothing but America since 2 and 7 years old sad and troubling.

I'd urge you to pass the resolution in support of Danny Thongsy and Sakhone Lasaphangthong. Danny and Sakhone have been part of our community fabric - giving back in key ways.

We may not love everything that everyone in our community does - but when people pay their dues - shouldn't that be enough? How can it be fair for some to receive an additional punishment years later of being ripping from their homes?

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

--

- Roni

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Resolution, File number 200247

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Galatea King <gking@im4humanintegrity.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support for Resolution, File number 200247

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Board of Supervisors,

Please add my email to File number 200247.

I'm writing in support of the resolution for a full pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy. Both community members have shown exemplary rehabilitation and are active members of our Bay Area community.

I work with a statewide organization, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, and we have been working with people of faith throughout the Bay Area, including San Francisco for many years. We organize a San Francisco Interfaith Coalition on Immigration that involves members of over a dozen faith communities in San Francisco working for immigrant justice.

I personally have gotten to know both Danny and Sakhone with their work in the community. Danny, as an Asian Law Caucus Fellow, participated in our program to share his faith journey with congregations throughout the Bay Area. Currently with the Justice Reinvestment Coalition, he continues to be a lead organizer in our community. As an Ambassador in Chinatown - where our office is located - I've gotten to witness Sakhone's critical work with unsheltered neighbors in Oakland, building trust, and getting them into transitional housing.

Both Danny and Sakhone make our communities safer. A pardon for Governor Newsom is the key strategy to prevent their deportation back to Laos!

Thank you for your leadership, BOS Gordon Mar, on this resolution! I hope the rest of the BOS will support this too!

Peace,

Gala

~~~~~

Gala King || she/her/hers  
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[gking@im4humanintegrity.org](mailto:gking@im4humanintegrity.org)  
[www.im4humanintegrity.org](http://www.im4humanintegrity.org)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: File number 200247: Pardons for Danny and Sakhone

**Categories:** 200247

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**From:** Kathy Huynh <kathyhuynh87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** File number 200247: Pardons for Danny and Sakhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to you as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker from a community health care clinic who has had personal interactions and received support from Danny and Sakhone at my workplace. Danny and Sakhone are embodiments of how transformations happen and people who truly care and want to give back to their communities. I am asking for all of you to grant pardons for their deportation orders to Laos and add this email to file number 200247.

Thank you for your time, and I'm looking forward to their relief,  
Kathy Huynh