

1 [Administrative Code - The San Francisco Sentencing Commission and Recidivism Reduction  
Ordinance of 2011]

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3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Article XXV,**  
4 **Sections 5.250 through 5.250-3 to: (1) establish the San Francisco Sentencing**  
5 **Commission; (2) set forth the Commission's purpose, powers and duties; and**  
6 **(3) establish membership criteria.**

7 NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
8 deletions are *strike-through italics Times New Roman*.  
9 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strike-through normal~~.

10 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

11 Section 1. Findings.

12 1. After AB 109 and AB 117 take effect on October 1, 2011, and criminal justice  
13 "Realignment" begins, San Francisco will face increasing responsibility for custody and  
14 supervision of criminal offenders, and will experience additional pressure on the criminal  
15 justice system at a time of significant budgetary constraints.

16 2. Although San Francisco has a demonstrated commitment to reformed criminal  
17 justice strategies that prioritize evidence based practices, without a comprehensive review of  
18 local ~~eustody and sentencing approaches~~practices, San Francisco is at risk of an ever  
19 increasing local custody population without experiencing reduced crime or recidivism rates,  
20 thereby risking the waste of both financial resources and human potential.

21 3. San Francisco already suffers from high recidivism rates, and unless strategies  
22 shift, recidivism rates will likely remain high after Realignment begins. Recidivism rates for  
23 San Francisco offenders released from state prison for the first time is 77% and for re-paroles  
24 from San Francisco, the recidivism rate is 78%.

1           4.       Programs such as electronic monitoring, in home supervision, out of custody  
2 cognitive behavioral therapy, and other community corrections alternatives have been  
3 effectively implemented through the Sheriff's Department and other agencies and could be  
4 expanded. These programs can reduce recidivism of nonviolent, non-serious offenders and  
5 may be better options than local custody for nonviolent non-serious offenders in San  
6 Francisco.

7           5.       Rates of incarceration and recidivism in San Francisco also significantly impact  
8 communities of color, particularly African Americans. According to recent data, African  
9 Americans make up 6.8% of San Francisco's population and 61% of the people paroled to  
10 San Francisco.

11          6.       With limited statewide analysis on sentencing practices, local jurisdictions need  
12 to review sentencing practices ~~and public safety strategies in order~~ to reduce recidivism, hold  
13 offenders accountable, assess and address the impact on communities of color, and  
14 efficiently and effectively use public resources.

15          7.       ~~Providing~~ As the City has already observed through existing alternative  
16 programs, providing alternatives to incarceration for some offenders, both pre-trial and post-  
17 conviction, can effectively protect public safety, reduce offender recidivism, stabilize families  
18 and communities, and cost less than incarceration, which saves limited City resources.

19          8.       To address these issues, the City needs to create an advisory body to analyze  
20 sentencing patterns and outcomes, advise the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and other City  
21 departments on the best approaches to reduce recidivism, and make recommendations for  
22 sentencing reforms that advance public safety and utilize best practices in criminal justice.

23               Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
24 Article XXV, Sections 5.250 through 5.250--4, to read as follows:

1 **Article XXV. SAN FRANCISCO SENTENCING COMMISSION**

2 SEC. 5. 250. – ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE: SAN FRANCISCO SENTENCING  
3 COMMISSION.

4 (a) The City hereby establishes the San Francisco Sentencing Commission.

5 (b) The purpose of the San Francisco Sentencing Commission is to encourage the  
6 development of criminal sentencing strategies that reduce recidivism, prioritize public safety and victim  
7 protection, emphasize fairness, employ evidence-based best practices, and efficiently utilize San  
8 Francisco’s criminal justice resources.

9 SEC. 5.250-1. - MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.

10 (a) Members. The Commission shall consist of 12 members, or 13 members if the Superior  
11 Court agrees to provide one member. The head or chair of each of the following agencies and bodies  
12 shall serve on or will assign one staff member to serve on the Commission as a voting member: District  
13 Attorney; Public Defender; Adult Probation; Juvenile Probation; Sheriff; Police; the Department of  
14 Public Health; the Reentry Council, and the Superior Court, assuming it agrees to participate on the  
15 Commission. In addition, the following additional voting members will be appointed: a member of a  
16 nonprofit organization that works with victims, chosen by the Family Violence Council; a member of a  
17 nonprofit organization that works with ex-offenders, chosen by the Reentry Council; a sentencing  
18 expert chosen by the Board of Supervisors; and an academic researcher with expertise in data analysis  
19 appointed by the Mayor.

20 (b) Quorum. 10 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, and the Commission  
21 shall have the authority to act on the vote of a majority of the quorum.

22 (c) Officers. The District Attorney or his or her designee shall chair the Commission.

23 (d) Staff Support. The District Attorney’s Office shall provide staff support and administrative  
24 assistance to the Commission.

25 (e) Meeting Frequency. The Commission shall meet at least three times a year.

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2 SEC. 5.250-2. - POWERS AND DUTIES.

3 The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

4 (a) Review and assess sentencing approaches locally and compare to other jurisdictions.

5 (b) Review and assess the City's capacity and utilization of services and  
6 alternatives to incarceration throughout the criminal justice continuum, including pre-  
7 adjudication and post-release.

8 (c) Review and assess the Justice Reinvestment Initiative recommendations to  
9 invest in best practices to reduce recidivism.

10 (d) Develop a recommended system of uniform definitions of recidivism for City  
11 departments to track and report on the outcomes of various criminal sentences and City programs  
12 meant to aid in reducing recidivism.

13 (e) Develop data collection standards and recidivism reporting standards.

14 (f) Develop and recommend department specific goals to reduce recidivism for the City  
15 departments represented on the Sentencing Commission, and other relevant City departments.

16 (g) Make recommendations regarding changes that should be made to the Penal Code and  
17 any other state laws to remove barriers to effective implementation of best practices in criminal justice.

18 (h) Facilitate trainings on best practices in sentencing for various criminal justice agencies.

19 (i) Share information and work in collaboration with the Reentry Council, established  
20 pursuant to the San Francisco Administrative Code, and the Community Corrections Partnership, as  
21 established by the California Penal Code.

22 (j) In December 2012, and on an annual basis thereafter, submit a report to the  
23 Mayor and the Board of Supervisors summarizing the findings of the Commission and making  
24 recommendations on the aforementioned categories.

1           (k) Nothing in this legislation shall infringe on any agency's legally mandated  
2 responsibilities in the criminal justice system, and, as such, recommendations are not statutorily  
3 binding on any City department.

4           SEC. 5.250-3. SUNSET CLAUSE.

5           This legislation shall expire on June 1, 2015, unless the Board of Supervisors adopts an  
6 ordinance continuing its existence. The Commission shall submit a report to the Board of Supervisors  
7 no fewer than six months prior to the expiration date recommending whether the Commission should  
8 continue to operate, and if so, whether the Board of Supervisors shall consider legislative changes that  
9 would enhance the capacity of the Commission to achieve the goals underlying this ordinance. The  
10 Commission's recommendations shall include drafts of ordinances that would implement its  
11 recommendations.

12           Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the  
13 date of passage.

14 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
15 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

16 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
17 SALLIE P. GIBSON  
18 Deputy City Attorney