

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 544-5227

June 7, 2016

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 213-16

Dear Senator Mitchell:


On May 24, 2016, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 213-16 (Supporting California State Senate Bill 1157 (Mitchell) - Strengthening Family Connections), which was enacted on June 3, 2016.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following documents to your attention:

- One copy of Resolution No. 213-16 (File No. 160560)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

- c. Supervisor Breed
Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Nicole Elliott
City Lobbyists - Shaw/Yoder/Antwih Inc., Paul Yoder, and Karen Lange

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill 1157 (Mitchell) - Strengthening Family Connections]

2
3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Mitchell,**
4 **to strengthen family connections in order to ensure families have access to in-person**
5 **visits with loved ones incarcerated in county jails.**

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7 WHEREAS, The parent-child relationship is a crucial social bond; and

8 WHEREAS, Legislation introduced by state Senator Holly Mitchell would preserve
9 meaningful visitation rights for people in local correctional facilities, juvenile halls, juvenile
10 homes, ranches, and camps, as well as private detention facilities contracting with counties by
11 clarifying that their right to a minimum amount of visitation refers to in-person visits, which
12 cannot be replaced with video visits; and

13 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill 1157 (SB1157) will help strengthen family
14 connections by ensuring access to in-person visits between incarcerated and detained
15 persons and their loved ones; and

16 WHEREAS, Providing access to visitation improves public safety, reduces recidivism,
17 and reduces negative impacts on loved ones, especially children whose loved ones are
18 incarcerated or detained; and

19 WHEREAS, A 2015 Prison Policy Initiative report showed that 74% of county jails
20 across the country that implemented video visitation ended up eliminating in-person visitation;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, At least five California counties (Kings, Napa, San Bernardino, San Diego,
23 and Solano) have eliminated in-person visitation in at least one of their jails, meaning families
24 are only able to visit their loved ones through a computer screen, and two counties (Imperial
25 and Placer) have severely restricted in-person visitation since adopting video visitation, and

1 three counties (Orange, San Mateo, and Tulare) plan to do the same as a part of jail
2 expansion or construction plans; and

3 WHEREAS, It is extremely costly to use video visitation services remotely from one's
4 home computer, about \$1/min on average, and many low-income families do not have access
5 to computers or the internet; and

6 WHEREAS, According to a 2015 report by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights,
7 34% of families with incarcerated family members nationwide went into debt to pay for phone
8 and visitation costs; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout the state, there are people are being detained at the county
10 level for longer periods of time, up to five years, due to realignment following the passage of
11 California State Assembly Bill 109; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Justice, 53% all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were
13 parents of one or more children under the age of 18; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families' 2011
15 Community Needs Assessment, an estimated 16,196 San Francisco children had a parent in
16 custody for some period of time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails; and

17 WHEREAS, According to Project WHAT's 2016 report, "We're Here and Talking," 61%
18 of San Francisco's children of incarcerated parents want more contact with their parents; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the
20 most adverse of childhood experiences; and

21 WHEREAS, Visitation is a mediating factor in the adverse effect of parental
22 incarceration; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has already taken a lead on this issue by maintaining in-
24 person visitation at each county jail in the county in order to preserve family connections; and

25 WHEREAS, SB 1157 will ensure this model is followed statewide; and

1 WHEREAS, SB 1157 is sponsored by Project WHAT, the Women's Foundation of
2 California Women's Policy Institute, Friends Committee on Legislation in California, Legal
3 Services for Prisoners with Children, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, the Prison Law
4 Office, and CIVIC; and

5 WHEREAS, SB 1157 has gained unanimous support from the San Francisco Youth
6 Commission, the Reentry Council, and the State Legislation Committee; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the strengthening
8 of family connections and the passage of SB 1157 (Mitchell); and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
10 of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the author and co-authors, Senator
11 Mitchell, Senator Hancock, and Assembly Member Weber.

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June 7, 2016

The Honorable Loni Hancock
California State Senator
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 213-16

Dear Senator Hancock:

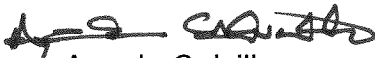
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Sincerely,


Angela Calvillo
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4 **to strengthen family connections in order to ensure families have access to in-person**
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8 WHEREAS, Legislation introduced by state Senator Holly Mitchell would preserve
9 meaningful visitation rights for people in local correctional facilities, juvenile halls, juvenile
10 homes, ranches, and camps, as well as private detention facilities contracting with counties by
11 clarifying that their right to a minimum amount of visitation refers to in-person visits, which
12 cannot be replaced with video visits; and

13 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill 1157 (SB1157) will help strengthen family
14 connections by ensuring access to in-person visits between incarcerated and detained
15 persons and their loved ones; and

16 WHEREAS, Providing access to visitation improves public safety, reduces recidivism,
17 and reduces negative impacts on loved ones, especially children whose loved ones are
18 incarcerated or detained; and

19 WHEREAS, A 2015 Prison Policy Initiative report showed that 74% of county jails
20 across the country that implemented video visitation ended up eliminating in-person visitation;
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22 WHEREAS, At least five California counties (Kings, Napa, San Bernardino, San Diego,
23 and Solano) have eliminated in-person visitation in at least one of their jails, meaning families
24 are only able to visit their loved ones through a computer screen, and two counties (Imperial
25 and Placer) have severely restricted in-person visitation since adopting video visitation, and

1 three counties (Orange, San Mateo, and Tulare) plan to do the same as a part of jail
2 expansion or construction plans; and

3 WHEREAS, It is extremely costly to use video visitation services remotely from one's
4 home computer, about \$1/min on average, and many low-income families do not have access
5 to computers or the internet; and

6 WHEREAS, According to a 2015 report by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights,
7 34% of families with incarcerated family members nationwide went into debt to pay for phone
8 and visitation costs; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout the state, there are people are being detained at the county
10 level for longer periods of time, up to five years, due to realignment following the passage of
11 California State Assembly Bill 109; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Justice, 53% all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were
13 parents of one or more children under the age of 18; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families' 2011
15 Community Needs Assessment, an estimated 16,196 San Francisco children had a parent in
16 custody for some period of time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails; and

17 WHEREAS, According to Project WHAT's 2016 report, "We're Here and Talking," 61%
18 of San Francisco's children of incarcerated parents want more contact with their parents; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the
20 most adverse of childhood experiences; and

21 WHEREAS, Visitation is a mediating factor in the adverse effect of parental
22 incarceration; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has already taken a lead on this issue by maintaining in-
24 person visitation at each county jail in the county in order to preserve family connections; and

25 WHEREAS, SB 1157 will ensure this model is followed statewide; and

1 WHEREAS, SB 1157 is sponsored by Project WHAT, the Women's Foundation of
2 California Women's Policy Institute, Friends Committee on Legislation in California, Legal
3 Services for Prisoners with Children, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, the Prison Law
4 Office, and CIVIC; and

5 WHEREAS, SB 1157 has gained unanimous support from the San Francisco Youth
6 Commission, the Reentry Council, and the State Legislation Committee; now, therefore, be it

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8 of family connections and the passage of SB 1157 (Mitchell); and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
10 of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the author and co-authors, Senator
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City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA. 94102-4689

File Number: 160560

Date Passed: May 24, 2016

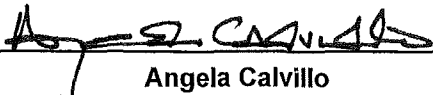
Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill 1157, authored by Senator Mitchell, to strengthen family connections in order to ensure families have access to in-person visits with loved ones incarcerated in county jails.

May 24, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 160560

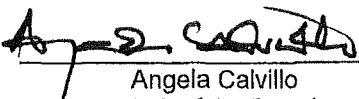
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/24/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
Mayor

6/3/2016
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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June 7, 2016

The Honorable Shirley N. Weber
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 213-16

Dear Assembly Member Weber:

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