

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

(San Francisco Administrative Code 5.1)

MINUTES

Friday, July 17, 2009
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Born Auditorium, 1st floor
Human Services Agency
170 Otis Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Members Present: Public Defender Jeff Adachi, ShaMauda Bishop, Chief Patrick Boyd, Mary Campbell, Joaquin Diaz de Leon, Tommy Escarcega, Chief Heather Fong, Duriel Gilmore, Chief Yador Harrell, District Attorney Kamala D. Harris, Sheriff Michael Hennessey, Gerald Miller, Tomiquia Moss (and then later, the Hon. Ronald Albers), Craig Murdock, Karen Roye, the Hon. Kevin Ryan, Chief William Siffermann, Rhonda Simmons, Armel Farnsworth, Eddy Zheng.
Members Absent: Trent Rhorer.

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Review of Agenda

District Attorney Harris called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Reentry Council, describing it as a historic convening. She introduced the four Council Co-Chairs, as well as the Meeting Co-Chairs for this meeting: herself and Public Defender Adachi.

II. Overview of Reentry Council Members and Terms

Public Defender Adachi expressed gratitude to the public and those who helped to establish the Council; he noted that the Council is one of the most comprehensive and collaborative of its kind. PD Adachi introduced all Council members.

District Attorney Harris explained that the Council was created by legislation which dictates who will be on the Council, and how we will conduct ourselves. In designing the council we decided to include seven former inmate appointees in a formal role to make sure that voice is present so we can determine what is most helpful and useful. These seven individuals have a variety of backgrounds including time spent in different institutions. We invite these appointees to fully participate; it is important that everyone is recognized as having an equal voice. We also included specific city and county partners on the Council in light of the particular role they have to play in reentry; in the work we have to do as a council, we should expect to invite a broader circle of partners in to participate, but this is the core group. The Council is made up of a cross-section in recognition of the needs of the group it is designed to serve, including parenting, housing, employment, education, etc; the Council has been created to bring all of these resources and disciplines to the table. The critical goal of the council is to reduce crime in the community.

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

(San Francisco Administrative Code 5.1)

III. Overview of Reentry Council's Mission, Powers, and Duties

Public Defender Adachi provided overview that this Council is a combination of efforts that were previously the subject of the San Francisco Reentry Council, and the Safe Communities Reentry Council. Those Councils made significant progress in a number of areas that we will build on. The mission of this Council will allow us to better identify areas in need of improvement, strategies that are working or not, programs in need of additional support; most importantly, to make sure we are coordinating our efforts and using the limited resources we have to meet these goals. Overarching goals of this Council are to give a voice to formerly incarcerated individuals; provide an avenue for community organizations to convey their needs in terms of criminal justice and supportive services; analyze how services are being delivered and can be improved, based on data and taking into consideration laws and systems that affect outcomes; hold government agencies accountable for what is and is not working; use collective will and creativity to provide formerly incarcerated individuals with concrete opportunities. We need to acknowledge that we will have disagreements and opposing points of view, but we also have to keep moving ahead to have impact intended.

District Attorney Harris noted that we are fortunate here in San Francisco because everyone is generally on the same page. We expect that people will be accountable for crimes committed, but when they've paid the penalty we want them to have a chance to reenter the community to be healthy and productive and do what they want to do. We also need to keep in mind that others throughout the state are watching what we are doing here. The potential for good that we could do is enormous.

Public Defender Adachi noted that we've had the support of not only all the criminal justice agencies represented here, but also that of the Mayor and members of the Board of Supervisors. PD Adachi invited Supervisor Mirkarimi, sponsor of the Reentry Council legislation to speak.

Supervisor Mirkarimi congratulated the members of the Reentry Council on their convening, and expressed his hope that this body will be the first step in increasing accountability, collaboration, and coordination across reentry efforts. Many members of the Board of Supervisors share in supporting the Reentry Council.

Public Defender Adachi acknowledged the support of other members of the Board of Supervisors, and introduced Reentry Council staff: Katy Miller, Jessica Flintoft, and George Jurand.

Jessica Flintoft, Council Staff, provided detailed review of powers, duties and responsibilities of the Council as set out in its governing legislation, codified at SF Admin Code 5.1.

Discussion: Chief Siffermann inquired if juveniles could be included in population served by the Reentry Council. DA Harris emphasized importance of not overlooking any groups or issues, but noted that the Council is designed by intention to focus specifically on adults, including young adults. PD Adachi concurred, and noted that this question had already been considered as scope of Reentry Council was being defined. Sheriff Hennessey suggested that as the Council identifies programs or funding that are open to both adults and juveniles, that we note which may be earmarked for juvenile programs.

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

(San Francisco Administrative Code 5.1)

IV. Adoption of By-Laws

DA Harris provided introduction to general purpose of by-laws.

Katy Miller, Council Staff, provided a detailed review of the draft by-laws before the Council for consideration.

Discussion: PD Adachi, Chief Boyd, Ms. Escarcega, Mr. Gilmore, DA Harris, Sheriff Hennessey, Ms. Roye.

Staff confirmed that audio recordings of all full Reentry Council meetings will be made available on the Council website. Ms. Roye suggested that members designate one alternate to serve in case of absence, and that this alternate be prepared to represent the department/agency. Chief Boyd confirmed that the expectation is that department heads would attend the three meetings a year, but would have one alternate to serve in her/his place if needed. Ms. Roye suggests that similar attendance protocol is followed for subcommittee meetings as well in order to ensure quality participation. Mr. Gilmore asked if Reentry Council could meet more frequently. DA Harris noted that subcommittees will likely meet more frequently. Sheriff Hennessey confirmed that by-laws allow for special meetings of the Council in addition to the three meetings per year mandated by the legislation.

Public Comment: Allyson West, California Reentry Program, asked why members are not listed in the by-laws, and if they are in another document. Sheriff Hennessey clarified that members are listed in the enabling legislation. Supervisor Mirkarimi commented that this Council is new, and reminded Council that the enabling legislation sunsets in two years. At that point, the Council could suggest legislative changes to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

MOTION to adopt by-laws with Ms. Roye's suggested amendment that the following is added to Article 6, Attendance: "Members of the Reentry Council (or their designee) shall notify..." DA Harris introduced motion; Mr. Farnsworth seconded; **motion passed** with 19 ayes; 0 nays. Later in the meeting, Ms. Escarcega noted that she had abstained from voting on this motion.

V. Overview of Annual Reporting Requirements & Presentation on San Francisco Reentry Services and Programs

In interest of time, DA Harris and PD Adachi tabled this item until next full Council meeting.

VI. Establishment of Subcommittees

DA Harris provided introduction to purpose of subcommittees. Jessica Flintoft, Council Staff, provided overview of five subcommittee areas for consideration and adoption.

Discussion: PD Adachi, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. Gilmore, DA Harris, Sheriff Hennessey, Ms. Moss, Ms. Roye, Judge Ryan, Mr. Zheng.

Ms. Campbell asked where issues related to survivors of domestic violence would be included. DA Harris suggested that these issues be covered by the proposed subcommittee on families, victims, and communities. Mr. Farnsworth suggested that a separate subcommittee be created to identify and pursue funding opportunities across all areas, how to better use existing resources, and what best practices exist in other places. PD Adachi suggested that Reentry Council staff

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

(San Francisco Administrative Code 5.1)

could continue to be clearinghouse for relevant governmental and private funding opportunities, and part of staff role will be bringing opportunity to appropriate subcommittees for action. Judge Ryan noted that there are other relevant efforts underway that should be involved: Violence Prevention Plan and accompanying Interagency Council, Department of Children Youth and Families, and Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. Sheriff Hennessey suggested that we ensure that the Reentry Council get a comprehensive report on the funding available, expended, and outcomes thereof. DA Harris suggested standing agenda item of funding at each subcommittee, and then staff will provide comprehensive report back to Reentry Council as a whole. Ms. Roye suggested responsibility of tracking funding be designated to staff, but that subcommittees should retain broader vision. Mr. Farnsworth suggested that each subcommittee develops recommended funding sources, best practices in other locales, and suggestions of how to better coordinate resources that exist. Ms. Moss asked if there is plan to solicit non Reentry Council members to subcommittees. Staff clarified that Council shall direct staff how to recruit diverse membership for subcommittees, and suggested that staff first do broad outreach for first meeting. Mr. Zheng suggested that Council includes self-help programs for currently and formerly incarcerated people, and in-custody programming in our work, and to integrate this into Self Sufficiency subcommittee. Mr. Gilmore suggested we be sure to include issues of parolee relocation to county best suited to support successful return, Food Stamps for drug offenders who may not be eligible, and legitimate job opportunities.

Public Comment: Richard Jimenez of Walden House noted drastic reductions in Prop 36 and across community, and potential early release of prisoners, and suggested ad hoc subcommittee to seek funding during these critical times. Norvella Brooks of Adult Probation Department shared personal experience of recently witnessing a shooting, and asks that everyone participate in this work, and emphasized that we must understand needs of individuals, families, and communities affected. Mr. Zheng noted that this Reentry Council must have participation from everyone so that we can be effective. Javarre Wilson of the Black Coalition on AIDS works in SF County Jails, and noted the high numbers of African American and Latino men in SF County Jails, and the need to address institutionalized racism and discrimination, inside and outside. Tamara Perkins, Documentarian Filmmaker, suggested need for grief and trauma support for direct victims and also to communities who witness violence.

MOTION to establish five subcommittees as outlined and with suggestions noted out of discussion incorporated—Community Justice and Alternatives to Incarceration; Self-Sufficiency of Formerly Incarcerated People; Health and Well-Being of Formerly Incarcerated People; Welfare and Safety of Families, Victims, and Communities; and Civil Rights and Civic Engagement of Formerly Incarcerated People. Mr. Farnsworth introduced the motion; Mr. Miller seconded; **motion passed** with 19 ayes; 0 nays. Later in the meeting, Ms. Escarcega noted that she had abstained from voting on this motion.

VII. Set Process to Appoint Representative to WiCAC.

In interest of time, DA Harris and PD Adachi tabled this item until next meeting.

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

(San Francisco Administrative Code 5.1)

VIII. Set Next Reentry Council Meeting Dates

MOTION to set next regular meeting dates for Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 10:00 am and January 26, 2010 at 10:00 am. PD Adachi introduced motion; Mr. Zheng seconded; **motion passed** with 20 ayes; 0 nays.

MOTION to hold a special meeting between now and the September 29, 2009 meeting introduced by Mr. Gilmore; Ms. Escarcega seconded. **Motion withdrawn** by Mr. Gilmore.

Discussion: PD Adachi, Mr. Farnsworth, Ms. Flintoft, Mr. Gilmore, DA Harris. Direction provided to staff to convene all five subcommittees at least once between now and September 29th at which time the Council may consider a special meeting prior to the January 26th regular meeting. All interested in participating in subcommittees should email reentry.council@sfgov.org or call (415) 553-1593 to express interest.

IX. Public comment on items not listed on the agenda

Public Comment: Julian Davis noted the Reentry Council by-laws do not allow for abstentions without majority vote of Council, and suggested that the Council examine this inconsistency.

X. Council members' comments, questions, and requests for future agenda items

In interest of time, DA Harris and PD Adachi tabled this item until next meeting.

XI. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned.