



DANIEL LURIE
MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

617 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3503
Toll-Free (866) 901-3212, TTY: (866) 399-4096
www.sf.gov/dcss



KAREN M. ROYE
DIRECTOR

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Dear Members of the Commission Streaming Task Force:

I'm writing on behalf of Child Support Services to express my strong support for the Reentry Council and its critical work to strengthen coordinated, effective services that promote successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and strengthen public safety. We strongly urge the Commission to preserve the Reentry Council and appeal the preliminary recommendation to eliminate the Reentry Council. Its elimination would **significantly harm community safety, equity, accountability, and the City's ability to make data-driven investments.**

The Reentry Council uses a **comprehensive, coordinated, and community-integrated approach** to supporting formerly incarcerated individuals, emphasizing evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally competent services.

Extensive Coordination and Collaboration: The Council effectively unites a wide range of public and private stakeholders, including the Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Health, Human Services Administration, Child Support Services, Homelessness and Supportive Housing, additional city agencies and community-based organizations. This unified approach ensures information sharing, minimizes service duplication, ensures funding streams are aligned and creates partnered strategies for housing, treatment, employment, and stabilization services.

No other City body does or could replicate this level of cross-agency integration.

Holistic and Integrated Service Model: The Reentry Council serves as a **state-mandated Local Advisory Committee (LAC)** for multiple justice-related funding streams. It informs and guides how City departments deploy resources for:

- Housing (transitional & permanent)
- Employment and vocational supports
- Behavioral health treatment
- Education and skill development
- Legal aid, record clearing, and barrier removal

In 2025, the Department of Public Health secured \$8 million in funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) through the Reentry Council as its LAC. In 2024, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing secured \$8 million through the Reentry Council for the same opportunity. And in 2023, DPH secured \$8 million. This is just from the BSCC, there are other funding streams that have relied on, trust, and support the Reentry Council as a LAC to the grant programs the City has been awarded.

Eliminating the Council would disrupt required advisory processes and reduce oversight of how millions of public dollars are spent.

Inclusion of Lived Experience: The Council actively involves formerly incarcerated individuals in leadership and advisory roles (e.g., as appointed members who must have served time in a correctional facility). This ensures that programs and policies are informed by the lived realities and direct feedback of the people they serve. Eliminating the Council would effectively **silence the voices of the people most impacted by reentry policy**, reversing more than a decade of equity-focused policymaking.

It ensures transparency, public participation, and community oversight

All Reentry Council and subcommittee meetings are open to the public. This structure:

- Creates transparency
- Allows community members to provide input
- Ensures accountability to residents and families
- Builds trust in the criminal justice system

Eliminating the Council would eliminate public oversight and restrict participation in policymaking. The Reentry Council is highly active commission that provides a forum for the community to be involved in shaping the policies that directly impact their families. Removing governing authority is a direct threat to equitable inclusion of community voices.

San Francisco has long been a national leader in reentry policy, eliminating the Reentry Council would reverse years of progress and harm the very individuals and families most impacted by the criminal legal system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to creating a safer, more equitable San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Karen Roye
Department Head
Child Support Services