

Dear Members of the Commission Streaming Task Force:

I am writing on behalf of **myself** to express my strong support for the San Francisco Reentry Council and its essential work to strengthen coordinated, effective services that promote successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and advance public safety. We urge the Commission to preserve the Reentry Council and to reject the preliminary recommendation to eliminate it. Removing the Council would significantly harm community safety, equity, accountability, and the City's ability to make data-driven, coordinated investments.

The Reentry Council plays a unique and irreplaceable role in San Francisco's reentry ecosystem through its comprehensive, collaborative, and community-integrated approach. The Council ensures that formerly incarcerated individuals receive evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive support as they return to the community.

Extensive Coordination and Collaboration

The Reentry Council brings together a broad coalition of public and private partners—including the Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and numerous community-based organizations.

This level of cross-agency integration is unmatched. The Council ensures information sharing, reduces duplication of services, aligns funding streams, and promotes joint strategies for housing, behavioral health, employment, education, and stabilization services. **No other City body performs or is structured to replicate this critical coordination.**

Holistic and Integrated Resource Alignment

As a state-mandated Local Advisory Committee (LAC), the Reentry Council guides how City departments use multiple justice-related funding streams. It informs investments in:

- Transitional and permanent housing
- Employment and vocational pathways
- Behavioral health and substance use treatment
- Educational advancement and skills development
- Legal services, record clearing, and barrier removal

These investments are not theoretical—they are proven.

In 2025, the Department of Public Health secured \$8 million in Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) funding through the Reentry Council in its LAC role. In 2024, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing secured another \$8 million. And in 2023, DPH secured an additional \$8 million. These represent only BSCC funds; several other grant programs have relied on the Reentry Council's structure, leadership, and oversight to secure critical awards.

Eliminating the Council would disrupt required advisory processes and weaken oversight of how millions of dollars in public funds are allocated and evaluated.

Leadership by People with Lived Experience

A defining strength of the Reentry Council is its inclusion of formerly incarcerated individuals in leadership and decision-making roles. Certain seats must be filled by individuals who have served time in correctional facilities. This ensures policy and programming are informed by real lived experience, not assumptions.

Eliminating the Council would silence those most impacted by reentry policy and erase over a decade of equity-centered, community-driven governance.

Transparency, Accountability, and Public Participation

The Reentry Council and its subcommittees hold open public meetings, ensuring:

- Government transparency
- Community input and participation
- Accountability to residents and families
- Trust-building within the criminal justice system

Removing the Council would eliminate one of San Francisco's only public oversight forums dedicated to reentry services. It would significantly restrict opportunities for community members—particularly justice-impacted residents—to directly shape policies that affect their lives.

A Reversal of San Francisco's Leadership

San Francisco has long been recognized as a national leader in reentry policy and innovation. The elimination of the Reentry Council would reverse years of progress, undermine effective cross-departmental coordination, and harm the very people and families most impacted by the criminal legal system.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Commission to preserve the Reentry Council.

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

Sincerely,

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Board of Supervisor Appointee Chair 1