

December 2, 2025

Dear Members of the Commission Streaming Task Force:

As a new Mayoral Appointed member of the Reentry Council, I am writing to voice my firm support for maintaining the Reentry Council and to respectfully request that the Commission reverse its preliminary recommendation. On behalf of [organization/individual name], I believe that making the Reentry Council a passive body and removing it from the Admin Code would undermine public safety, diminish equity, weaken accountability measures, and compromise the City's capacity to make strategic, evidence-informed investments in reentry services.

The Reentry Council has established a holistic, collaborative framework for supporting people returning from incarceration, prioritizing services that are evidence-based, trauma-responsive, and culturally relevant.

Comprehensive Cross-Sector Partnership: The Council brings together diverse stakeholders from both public agencies and community organizations, including the Public Defender, District Attorney, Adult Probation, Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Health, and numerous nonprofits. Through this collaborative structure, the Council facilitates information exchange, prevents redundant programming, aligns funding priorities, and develops coordinated approaches to addressing housing, treatment, employment, and stabilization needs.

No other existing municipal entity provides this degree of inter-agency coordination.

Comprehensive Service Coordination: The Reentry Council functions as the state-required Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for various justice-related funding programs. Through this role, it shapes how City agencies allocate resources across:

- Transitional and permanent housing solutions
- Job readiness and employment programs
- Mental health and substance use treatment
- Educational opportunities and skills training
- Legal services, record expungement, and barrier removal

The Council's work has directly supported significant funding successes: the Department of Public Health obtained \$8 million from the Board of State and Community Corrections in both 2023 and 2025, while the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing secured \$8 million in 2024. These BSCC grants represent only a portion of the funding streams that depend on the Reentry Council's LAC designation.

Dissolving the Council would interrupt mandatory advisory functions and diminish oversight of substantial public investments.

Centering Lived Experience: The Council intentionally includes formerly incarcerated individuals in decision-making and advisory capacities, with appointed members who bring direct

experience of incarceration. This structure ensures that services and policies reflect the actual needs and perspectives of those navigating reentry. Disbanding the Council would eliminate these crucial voices from policy discussions, rolling back over ten years of progress toward equity-centered governance.

Ensuring Transparency and Community Engagement: The Council and its subcommittees conduct all business in public meetings, which:

- Promote transparency in decision-making
- Enable community members to contribute feedback
- Maintain accountability to residents and their families
- Foster public trust in justice system operations

Eliminating the Council would remove an important avenue for public oversight and limit meaningful community participation in policy development. The Reentry Council serves as an engaged body that provides families and community members with direct opportunities to influence policies affecting their lives. Removing this governance structure poses a serious threat to equitable community representation.

San Francisco has earned recognition as a national leader in reentry innovation. Eliminating the Reentry Council would represent a significant step backward and would disproportionately harm the individuals and families most affected by our criminal legal system.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns and your dedication to building a safer and more just San Francisco. I am available to discuss this matter in greater detail or provide any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Steve Adami

Steve Adami, MPA

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Executive Director, The Way Out
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