



City and County of San Francisco Adult Probation Department

*Protect and Serve the Community, Further Justice, Inspire Change,
and Prioritize Racial Equity so that all People May Thrive*

Cristel M. Tullock, MSW
Chief Probation Officer

December 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Adult Probation Department (APD) to express our strong support for the Reentry Council of the City and County of San Francisco and to urge the Commission to reconsider its preliminary recommendation to eliminate the Council as a standing body in the Administrative Code. As one of the City's core public-safety agencies and a mandated partner in reentry, the Adult Probation Department relies on the Reentry Council's structure, authority, and cross-sector participation to fulfill our statutory responsibilities, coordinate services, and ensure the safety and stability of the individuals we supervise and the communities we serve.

Eliminating the Reentry Council would significantly hinder APD's ability to collaborate effectively across systems, leverage state and federal funding, and implement evidence-based reentry practices that reduce recidivism and promote public safety.

APD's success in reducing recidivism depends on the department's ability to connect clients to timely, appropriate, and coordinated services. The Reentry Council is the only City body that convenes all relevant justice, health, housing, and human-service partners, including the Sheriff's Office, Public Defender, District Attorney, Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, and numerous community-based organizations—under a unified, problem-solving framework.

This level of integration supports APD's supervision model by rapidly aligning supervision strategies with behavioral health, housing, and treatment partners while avoiding duplication of services and quickly identifying gaps in client support. Information and best practices flow across departments in a reliable, structured manner—not dependent on informal or ad hoc coordination.

The Reentry Council serves as the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for multiple state and federal justice-related funding streams that directly impact APD's operations and the availability of services for our clients. If the Council were eliminated, APD risks losing a governance mechanism required for these funding programs, as well as the interdepartmental oversight structure that ensures funds are deployed responsibly and equitably.

The Reentry Council is one of the few City bodies that embeds the expertise of people with lived experience of incarceration into decision-making. For Adult Probation, this is vital.

Formerly incarcerated representatives:

- Provide direct insight into service barriers that limit APD clients' success.
- Improve trust and engagement between APD and the community.
- Help shape policies that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and aligned with the realities clients face upon reentry.

Removing the Council would effectively eliminate this structured, accountable form of lived-experience participation, something APD cannot replicate on its own and which is fundamental to equitable reentry policy.

All Reentry Council and subcommittee meetings are open to the public, ensuring:

- Transparent decision-making around reentry services and investments.
- Opportunities for APD to hear directly from community members and service providers.
- Public accountability for system performance, including how agencies collaborate to support individuals on probation.

A passive, non-codified body would not be obligated to maintain this transparency or attendance, undermining APD's ability to work within a coordinated, accountable reentry system.

The Reentry Council is not a ceremonial body—it is a working, interdisciplinary system of governance that APD depends on to fulfill critical operational functions. Eliminating it would:

- Fragment service delivery, increasing instability for justice-involved individuals.
- Weaken APD's partnerships with health, housing, workforce, and community providers.
- Reduce oversight and strategic planning for millions of dollars in reentry investments.

For a department tasked with protecting community safety, reducing recidivism, and supporting individuals through structured supervision, the Council's elimination would be a major setback—not just for APD, but for the entire City.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to strengthening San Francisco's public-safety and reentry systems. We urge you to preserve the Reentry Council in the Administrative Code and maintain its essential role in supporting the work of the Adult Probation Department and the lives of the people we serve.

Thank you,

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