



May 12, 2026

DRAFT (Pending approval of VAC)

The Honorable Daniel Lurie
Mayor of San Francisco
San Francisco City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Lurie,

The San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission writes to express strong concern about the proposed elimination of the city-funded case manager and therapist positions that allow veterans without VA healthcare to access the Veterans Justice Court.

Commissioners have seen the impact of these roles firsthand. Commissioner Nicholas Rusanoff, a Purple Heart recipient and longtime volunteer in the Veterans Justice Court, has supported participants for years—guiding them through recovery, visiting them during the pandemic, and even using personal resources to help them stabilize their lives. Through his first hand experiences with the Court, he has come to see how vitally essential the case manager and therapist positions are for veterans who would otherwise have no pathway to treatment or support.

Without these roles, veterans lacking VA healthcare will effectively lose access to the court, creating a system where participation depends not on service or legal eligibility, but on healthcare status. This would undermine a program that reduces recidivism, promotes recovery, and ultimately helps many veterans transition into federally funded care.

We respectfully urge your office to restore funding for these critical positions so that San Francisco continues to ensure equitable access to justice and treatment for all veterans.

Commissioner Rusanoff would be grateful for the opportunity to meet in person to share his firsthand experience with the Veterans Justice Court and explain why the positions as so essential to the veterans they serve.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission
City and County of San Francisco