

1 [Request for Board of Supervisors hearing on services and solutions for youth with incarcerated
2 parents and their needs]

3

4 Shall the Youth Commission adopt the following motion:

5

6 ***The Youth Commission calls on the Board of Supervisors to hold a timely hearing regarding***
7 ***the unmet needs of youth with an incarcerated parent(s) and various City departments***
8 ***(including but not limited to the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families; the Juvenile***
9 ***Probation Department, the Adult Probation Department, the Human Services Agency) efforts to***
10 ***provide services and support for young people with incarcerated parents.***

11

12 Supplemental Information

13 According to the 2011 DCYF Community Needs Assessment, 17,933 children and youth were
14 estimated to have had a parent who spent time in either county jail or state prison in 2010.¹ As this
15 number does not include youth and children who had a parent that was incarcerated at any time during
16 their childhood, and does not include transitional age youth, parental incarceration may affect an even
17 greater number of San Francisco's young people.

18 Recognizing that three decades of high incarceration have not made our communities safer,
19 the San Francisco's District Attorney, Adult Probation Department, and Juvenile Probation
20 Department² have all begun to pursue alternatives to out-of-home detention for both youth and adults.

21

22

23 ¹ 1,797 San Francisco children had a parent in California State prison. An estimated 16,196 San Francisco
24 children had a parent in custody for some period of time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails. See: San
25 Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, "2011 Community Needs Assessment," Published
May 2011 and available at: <http://www.dcyf.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=11> , Page 101.

² At a February 19, 2014 meeting with youth commissioners, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Allen Nance reported a 40% reduction in the population at Juvenile Hall over the last five years.

1 This has led to a drop in the overall population at the San Francisco county jail,³ Juvenile Hall, and a
2 drop in the number of charges filed for non-violent drug offenses. The San Francisco Board of
3 Supervisors also recently recognized the need to curb discrimination against formerly incarcerated
4 people with the passage of File #131192, the Fair Chance ordinance, on February 11, 2014.

5 In addition to these notable efforts, youth commissioners recognize an outstanding need to
6 review how reliance on incarceration has affected a generation of young people, and specifically, the
7 impact of parental incarceration on the wellbeing and life outcomes of young people in San Francisco.

8 In a recent survey based on the Children of Incarcerated Parent's Bill of Rights designed by
9 and for San Francisco youth with incarcerated parents, 44% of youth respondents had witnessed their
10 parent's arrest. 30% did not know where their parent was incarcerated. Less than half (48%) were
11 informed when their parent was transferred or released. 46% had been forced to move as a result of
12 their parent's incarceration and 20% had to change schools. Less than half (49%) had been able to
13 visit their incarcerated parent, and 56% responded they wished they could have more contact with
14 their parent.⁴

15 We urge the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing to investigate issues including, but not
16 limited to: Efforts to collect data on needs and outcomes of youth with incarcerated parents who
17 access city services; Notifying families and children when parents are transferred and/or released from
18 jail or prison; What type of additional support services are offered and/or needed to support the health,
19 wellbeing, and educational success of youth with incarcerated parents; Efforts to mitigate stigma and
20

21

22 ³ The San Francisco jail population in 2008 was 2,015. In 2013 it was 1,413, with 1,127 would-be prisoners in
23 diversion. See: Roberts, Chris, "Smaller new jail might meet SF's needs, report finds," Published in the *San*
24 *Francisco Examiner*, January 24, 2014. Retrieved on February 28, 2014 at:
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/smaller-new-jail-might-meet-sfs-needs-report-finds/Content?oid=2686090>

25 ⁴ Project WHAT (We Are Here and Talking) and Community Works West, "Survey for Youth (ages 12-25) with
Incarcerated Parents, February 2014.

1 discrimination against formerly imprisoned people and its' impact on families; Protocols for arrests of
2 adults in front of children or youth and support for youth during and after the arrest and court process;
3 Programs and services specifically designed to support and build the leadership of youth with
4 incarcerated parents; Phone call and family- and child-visiting privileges and policies that affect the
5 ability of youth to see and speak to their incarcerated parent; Support services for parents in both the
6 adult probation and juvenile probation departments; Considerations of family impact at the time of
7 sentencing and during parole hearings; Considerations regarding placement and proximity of parents
8 with children placed in out-of-home detention; The effect of parental incarceration on youth and family
9 housing stability and the impact of incarceration on the City's anti-displacement efforts; The impact of
10 parental deportations as a result of incarceration on families and youth;

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25