



July 22, 2020

San Francisco Reentry Council
c/o Adult Probation Department, Reentry Division
880 Bryant Street, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94103
Via email to reentry.council@sfgov.org and geoffrea.morris@sfgov.org

Reentry Councilmembers and Ms. Morris:

We write in support of appointing Reentry Councilmember Jose Bernal to the San Francisco Sentencing Commission, which you will consider as item 7 on your July 23, 2020 agenda.

Mr. Bernal has distinguished himself as a pillar of San Francisco's reentry community. His service on the Reentry Council for the past four years, including serving as chair of the Legislation & Policy Subcommittee, has been exemplary. Jose was one of the lead organizers and advocates behind the grassroots campaign to end San Francisco's gang injunctions, a community demand that was supported by the Reentry Council. In his prior work as the Shelter Program Manager for Hospitality House, he personally assisted hundreds of men experiencing homelessness in their reentry journeys. In his current role as the Organizing Manager at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Jose works with currently and formerly incarcerated people, empowering their voices and helping build their leadership to engage in campaigns that create real community safety. He helped build the Audit Ahern campaign that became Decarcerate Alameda County, a coalition which seeks to shift resources away from incarceration and instead reinvest in health-affirming resources. Mr. Bernal is a bilingual San Francisco native.

Currently, the Sentencing Commission has no direct representation from people who have been incarcerated, and we believe this problem must be of great concern to the Reentry Council. The Reentry Council is tasked with appointing a Sentencing Commission member, and has the opportunity and responsibility to ensure formerly incarcerated people's direct representation. Since Jose Bernal is both an excellent candidate who will ably represent San Francisco's reentry community, and formerly-incarcerated himself, he is the best candidate for this appointment.

Finally, we note the critical urgency of this appointment. The Board of Supervisors has tasked the Sentencing Commission's Safety & Justice Challenge Subcommittee with planning closure of County Jail 4 (the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant Street) by November 1, 2020. ***Please appoint***

a representative to the Sentencing Commission at your July 23, 2020 meeting, and do not delay this appointment to your next meeting. If the Reentry Council does not appoint anyone at the July meeting and instead waits until October, then the Reentry Council will have abdicated its responsibility to vote on Sentencing Commission business at this critical time.

Again, we urge you to appoint Mr. Bernal for the sake of urgency, and because we believe that the Sentencing Commission should have representation of people impacted by incarceration.

Sincerely,

No New SF Jail Coalition

NoSFjail@CURBprisonspending.org

NoNewSFJail.org