

1 [Resolution Urging the Board of Supervisors to Support SB 1157 – Strengthening Family  
2 Connections]

3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to Urge Support of SB 1157 (Mitchell) –**  
4 **Strengthening Family Connections in order to ensure families have access to in-person visits**  
5 **with loved ones incarcerated in county jails**

6 WHEREAS, the parent-child relationship is among the most important of social bonds; and

7 WHEREAS, legislation introduced by state Senator Holly Mitchell would preserve meaningful  
8 visitation rights for people in local correctional facilities, juvenile halls, juvenile homes, ranches, and  
9 camps by clarifying that their right to a minimum amount of visitation refers to in-person visits, which  
10 cannot be replaced with video visits; and

11 WHEREAS, this bill would also require that private detention facilities meet the same minimum  
12 standards as local facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, SB 1157 will help strengthen family connections by ensuring access to in-person  
14 visits between incarcerated and detained persons and their loved ones; and

15 WHEREAS, providing access to visitation improves public safety, reduces recidivism, and  
16 reduces negative impacts on loved ones, especially children whose loved ones are incarcerated or  
17 detained; and

18 WHEREAS, A 2015 Prison Policy Initiative report showed that 74% of county jails across the  
19 country that implemented video visitation ended up eliminating in-person visitation; and

20 WHEREAS, At least five California counties (Kings, Napa, San Bernardino, San Diego, and  
21 Solano) have eliminated in-person visitation in at least one of their jails, meaning families are only able  
22 to visit their loved ones through a computer screen, and two counties (Imperial and Placer) have  
23 severely restricted in-person visitation since adopting video visitation, and three counties (Orange, San  
24 Mateo, and Tulare) plan to do the same as a part of jail expansion or construction plans; and  
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WHEREAS, It is extremely costly to use video visitation services remotely from one's home computer, about \$1/min on average, and many low-income families do not have access to computers or the internet; and

WHEREAS, 34% of families went into debt to pay for phone and visitation costs; and

WHEREAS, 53% all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were parents of one or more children under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the most adverse of childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, visitation is a mediating factor in the adverse effect of parental incarceration; and

WHEREAS an estimated 16,196 San Francisco children had a parent in custody for some period of time in 2010 at San Francisco County Jails; and

WHEREAS, 61% of San Francisco's children of incarcerated parents want more contact with their parents; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has already taken a lead on this issue by maintaining in-person visitation at each county jail in the county in order to preserve family connections; and

WHEREAS, there are now more people being detained at the county level for longer periods of time, up to five years, due to realignment following the passage of AB 109; and

WHEREAS, the changes due to realignment are more cause to increase our efforts to support children in maintaining strong bonds with their parents during incarceration; and

WHEREAS, improving services and supports for children with incarcerated parents, including improving access to visiting opportunities, has been among the San Francisco Youth Commission's top priorities since 2013; now

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to support the strengthening of family connections by issuing public support for SB 1157 (Mitchell).



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Chair, Luis Avalos-Nunez  
Adopted on April 4, 2016  
2015-2016 San Francisco Youth Commission