[Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1076 (Ting) - Criminal Records: Automatic Relief]

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1076, authored by Assembly Member Phil Ting, to provide efficient arrest and conviction relief through the California Department of Justice by automating the process for those who are already entitled to record clearance relief under existing laws, and grant formerly-incarcerated persons fair and earned opportunity to fully reintegrate into society.

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that the U.S. loses roughly \$65 billion per year in terms of gross domestic product due to employment losses among people with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, Eight million California residents have criminal convictions on their records that hamper their ability to find housing, secure public benefits, gain admittance to college, obtain licenses; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with criminal records face barriers in gaining employment, making them more likely to reoffend; and

WHEREAS, These paper prisons perpetuate and reinforce the cycle of poverty and crime, disproportionately impacting socio-economically disadvantaged communities, and in particular, communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Existing law authorizes a person who was arrested and has successfully completed a pre-filing diversion program, a person who has successfully completed a specified drug diversion program, a person who has successfully completed a specified deferred entry of judgment program, and a person who has suffered an arrest that did not result in a conviction, under certain conditions, to petition the court to seal the person's arrest record; and

WHEREAS, The arrest for the crime for which the defendant was diverted is deemed to have never occurred if a defendant successfully completes certain diversion programs; and

WHEREAS, Current law imposes a burden on affected individuals to be made aware of their eligibility and retain an attorney to proactively file the necessary petition; and

WHEREAS, This is a significant barrier to access for criminal justice record relief, particularly for lower-income individuals, with it being estimated that less than 20 percent of eligible people obtain record clearance; and

WHEREAS, Even if the current process could be made available to all those eligible, the volume of petitions would demand resources higher than courts and prosecutors would be able to provide; and

WHEREAS Under the current petition-base record clearance mode, each record costs the state's criminal justice system \$3,757, whereas an automated system would cost 4 cents per record; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco District Attorney's Office has already cleared more than 8,000 cases of marijuana-related convictions using automated record clearance technology within less than a full year; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 1076 would open doors to those facing employment and housing barriers by automating the process of clearing an arrest or criminal record for eligible individuals; and

WHEREAS, Its passing would promote positive criminal justice reform for a more equitable justice system; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports California State Assembly Bill No. 1076 and urges the Assembly and Senate to pass the bill; and, be it



City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution

File Number: 190421 Date Passed: June 18, 2019

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June 07, 2019 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 18, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani

and Yee

Absent: 1 - Walton

File No. 190421

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/18/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

> Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

Unsigned 6/28/19

London N. Breed Date Approved

Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

7/2/2019 Date