

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

JANE KIM

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ivy Lee, 415.554.7973

ivy.lee@sfgov.org

Press Release

Fair Chance Act Passes Unanimously On First Read

February 4, 2014 – Today, Supervisor Jane Kim’s Fair Chance Act passed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously on its first read with an 11-0 vote. The Fair Chance Act was co-sponsored by Supervisors Malia Cohen, David Campos, David Chiu, Norman Yee, John Avalos, and Eric Mar and received the endorsement of both the SF Chronicle and the SF Examiner.

The Fair Chance Act changes the way that employers with over 20 employees and housing providers obtain and use arrest and conviction information to make decisions about employment and tenancy in San Francisco and requires City contractors and subcontractors to adhere to the same rules when making decisions regarding employment of persons for work on City contracts and subcontracts.

With the passage of the Fair Chance Act, employers and housing providers will still be able to obtain all the relevant information that they need to make responsible decisions, and at the same time, 65 million Americans who live with an arrest or conviction record in their past, will have a fair chance to present their qualifications first before any inquiry occurs about arrest or conviction history.

“Donel Fuller was fired in 2013 from his janitorial job for failing to remember and tell his employer about a 1974 arrest for trespassing. Sandy won the lottery for a below-market-rate unit at a new development in San Francisco but was disqualified because she had been unable to pay child support over a decade ago even though she served time for that failure. For 1 in 4 adults in the US, an arrest or conviction record is a stigma that means "you need not apply" and this is what Fair Chance was designed to address,” said Supervisor Kim.

The Fair Chance Act is the first local "ban-the-box" law in the US that covers affordable housing, including below-market-rate units, contractors with the city, and private employers with 20 or more employees.