



JANE KIM

For Immediate Release

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SUPERVISORS KIM AND COHEN INTRODUCE BROAD FAIR HIRING AND FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE

12/10/13 - Every year, thousands of citizens are released from federal, state and local correctional facilities and return to their families and friends in San Francisco. For those citizens with a conviction record, successful re-integration into our communities is often hindered by unnecessary barriers to jobs and housing, whether it is immediately after release or decades after having served their time. "These challenges contribute to high recidivism rates, which also mean decreased safety for our citizens and increased costs for the City for police and other criminal justice system services," said Supervisor Kim. "The City of San Francisco has already taken steps to ease the transition of returning citizens, including Ban-the-Box legislation for all city employment, and the Fair Chance ordinance is a common-sense next step solution to a serious and nation-wide problem."

"When one in four Californians has a conviction record, we need to take a smart approach that allows these members of our community a fair chance to present their qualifications for a job and access affordable housing units. Too often these individuals are judged for having a conviction history and summarily dismissed due to both conscious and unconscious biases," explains Supervisor Cohen. "This legislation is an important step in changing the general public's perception of people who have served their time, paid their debt to society, and want to re-enter and remain in our communities as hard-working, productive members." Under the Fair Chance ordinance, the City will continue its mission to promote safer communities and reduce law enforcement costs by assisting returning citizens to be constructive individuals who contribute positively to their communities.

"We applaud All of Us or None, the National Employment Law Project, Jobs With Justice, and all the community members for bringing attention nationally to this important issue. It is truly my pleasure and my privilege to sponsor this legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work with the business community, the people and organizations that invest and aid returning citizens, and the entire City family on practical solutions that serve the best interests of all our citizens," said Supervisor Kim.

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

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