[Declaring September 2007 as Reentry Month]

Resolution declaring the month of September 2007 as Reentry month in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, The California Department of Corrections housed 168,035 inmates in 2005, the largest prison population in the nation and four times the amount since 1980; and

WHEREAS, The number of felons paroled from California prisons has skyrocketed in recent years from 9,776 in 1977, to 50,512 in 1987, to 121,015 in 1997; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, 115,001 adults and 3,515 juveniles in California were on parole; and

WHEREAS, In 2002 nearly one in five parolees in America lived in California; and

WHEREAS, California has a rate 42% higher than the national average number of parolees per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Only one in every 10 parolees access services available through a corrections program and only 6 percent in employment programs; and

WHEREAS, Half of parolees are illiterate, only 10 percent access literacy services, and many have long histories of criminal or gang involvement and little marketable skills; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 2/3 of California adult parolees return to prison within three years; and

WHEREAS, Most parolees have been released to parole systems that provide little services, which ensures that the recidivism rates remain high and public support for parolee and inmate services remains low; and

WHEREAS, 65 percent of 115,000 parolees have drug problems only 6 percent receive services; and

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WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that 20% of homeless adults have a criminal record; and
WHEREAS, In 2005, 80,962 parole felons were sent back to prison; and
WHEREAS, California spending on parole services was cut 44% in 1997, resulting in a near-doubling of parole caseloads to a ratio of 82 parolees for each parole officer; and
WHEREAS, At a time when San Francisco is experiencing an epidemic of violence, ensuring that parolees and probationers are supported and prepared to reenter society is crucial to restoring peace on our streets; and
WHEREAS, a broad coalition of public officials including the Public Defender, District Attorney, Sheriff, Mayor’s Office, and Board of Supervisors have come together in various ways with City and state departments and community-based organizations to form the Safe Communities and San Francisco Reentry Councils; and
WHEREAS, the mission of the Safe Communities Reentry Council is to promote the safe and successful return of formerly incarcerated individuals to our community by developing a comprehensive support system that reduces violence and recidivism, and promotes public safety; and
WHEREAS, the goal of the San Francisco Reentry Council is to prevent recidivism and provide ex-offenders with essential support and employment opportunities needed to permanently exit the criminal justice system; and
WHEREAS, the Safe Communities Reentry Council is holding the 2nd Annual Reentry Summit, “Working Together to Support San Franciscans After Incarceration” on September 19, 2007 with the support of San Francisco State University and The California Endowment; and
WHEREAS, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Reentry Strategies Institute and District Attorney Kamala Harris will launch the first ever San Francisco Reentry Employer

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Network on September 24, 2007 to provide information and education on the economic and community benefits of hiring people transitioning from the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff’s Department has recently launched innovative programs to meet the needs of ex-offenders, including the No Violence Alliance (NoVA) Project, and the Women’s Reentry Center;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Public Defender’s Clean Slate Program annually continues to assist over 2,000 people clear their criminal histories and live productive lives, and the Reentry Unit provides social services to hundreds of individuals annually; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco declares September 2007 as “Reentry Month” in the City and County of San Francisco.
Resolution declaring the month of September 2007 as Reentry month in the City and County of San Francisco.

September 18, 2007 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Jew, Maxwell, Mirkarimi, Peskin
Absent: 2 - McGoldrick, Sandoval

File No. 071308

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 18, 2007 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom