Resolution supporting California Assembly Bill No. 328, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu, and co-authored by Assembly Members Ash Kalra and Buffy Wicks, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to establish the Reentry Housing Program.

WHEREAS, On January 27, 2021, Assembly Member David Chiu introduced California State Assembly Bill No. 328 (AB 328), and co-authored by Assembly Members Ash Kalra and Buffy Wicks, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to establish the Reentry Housing Program by repurposing funding from the closure of state prisons to provide evidence-based solutions to house people experiencing homelessness with histories of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, People on parole are seven times more likely to recidivate when homeless than when housed; and

WHEREAS, Evidence shows that “supportive housing,” or housing that is affordable to people on parole living in extreme poverty that does not limit length of stay and offers tenants services promoting housing stability, reduces recidivism; and

WHEREAS, Data show that housing decreases recidivism rates by 60%, when compared to control groups, and reduces rearrests by 40%; and

WHEREAS, About half of people experiencing homelessness report a history of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated people are 27 times more likely to be unstably housed or homeless than the general public; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are almost seven times more likely to be homeless than the general population in California, driven by systemic racism that includes disproportionate incarceration, and discharges from prisons and jails into homelessness; and
WHEREAS, Projected population decline in California’s state prisons in the next few years is expected to reduce future cost growth for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) both through a reduction in incarcerated individuals and staff, as well as the closure of two state facilities; and

WHEREAS, California’s incarcerated population is currently at about 94,000 compared to 123,100 in February 2020, a number the California Legislative Analyst’s Office predicts will hold steady for the next several years due to recent efforts to reform the criminal justice system including Proposition 47 in 2014, Proposition 57 in 2016, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In the short term, the CDCR will save several hundreds of millions of dollars due to a decrease in incarcerated population, which decreases per person costs for clothing, food, etc. and the closure of at least two state correctional facilities between 2021 and 2024 would yield savings in utilities, staffing, and equipment, as well as a reduction in the incarcerated and ward population; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates $1.5 billion in total savings by 2025 as a result of these changes, freeing valuable resources that can be repurposed for sustainable criminal justice solutions through the CDCR; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Housing and Community Development, with its expertise in overseeing grant programs for housing and services, and counties and continuums of care, which often have experience providing housing and services to people exiting incarceration, is an appropriate entity to administer programs offering evidence-based housing and services interventions to people on parole experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, AB 328 will determine protocols to prevent discharges from prison to homelessness and establish guidelines to determine funding availability, five-year renewability requests, and a scoring criteria for applicants in the program; and
WHEREAS, AB 328 will allow individuals in the program to use program funds for long-term rental assistance in permanent housing, operating subsidies in affordable or supportive housing units, housing incentives like security deposits and holding fees, assistance services for accessing permanent supportive housing, and service providers offering health and housing stability; and

WHEREAS, Participants in the Reentry Housing Program will have access to case management services, parole discharge planning, other services like education and employment services, benefit entitlement application and appeal assistance, transportation assistance to access services, identification assistance, Medi-Cal funded mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and more based on the individual’s specific needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California Assembly Bill No. 328, Reentry Housing Program, and urges the California State Legislature to pass this bill; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and the California State Senate as well as the Bill’s primary sponsor, Assembly Member David Chiu.
Resolution supporting California Assembly Bill No. 328, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu, and co-authored by Assembly Members Ash Kalra and Buffy Wicks, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to establish the Reentry Housing Program.

February 09, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/9/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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