

1 [Urging the Full Pardon of Salesh Prasad]

2  
3 **Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant**  
4 **Salesh Prasad, a full pardon to allow him to remain in the United States with his**  
5 **family and to continue contributing to his community.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, The history of the City and County of San Francisco includes welcoming  
8 people of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds. Immigrants are an  
9 integral part of our city and have made enormous positive contributions to San Francisco,  
10 where all families are valued; and

11 WHEREAS, Salesh ("Sal") Prasad is an immigrant from Fiji who has lived in  
12 California since he was 6 years old and came to the United States as a Lawful Permanent  
13 Resident with his family; and

14 WHEREAS, During his childhood, Mr. Prasad experienced domestic violence within  
15 his household and was sexually abused by an adult male acquaintance; and

16 WHEREAS, This abuse pushed Mr. Prasad to seek protection from gang members  
17 and to self-medicate with drugs and alcohol, causing his life to enter a downward spiral;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, At age 22, Mr. Prasad took a person's life during an altercation, for  
20 which he is incredibly remorseful; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad was convicted for that crime and was sentenced to 20 years  
22 to life in state prison with the possibility of parole; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad was granted parole by the California Board of Parole  
24 Hearings in 2021, after serving about twenty-seven years of incarceration; and

1           WHEREAS, Those granted parole by the Board of Parole Hearings following an  
2 indeterminate life sentence represent a very low recidivism rate as evidenced by the 2019  
3 Recidivism Report for Offenders Released from the California Department of Corrections  
4 and Rehabilitation, finding that less than one percent were convicted of felony crimes  
5 against persons after release; and

6           WHEREAS, Despite the challenging circumstances, Mr. Prasad began to heal and  
7 engage in self-inquiry focused on rehabilitation and change while incarcerated; and

8           WHEREAS, Through many years of therapy, Mr. Prasad healed from his abuse,  
9 transitioning from victim to survivor; and

10          WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad has reflected on the harm that he caused and the incredible  
11 remorse he holds for his actions; and

12          WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad became a leader not just in prison and ICE detention but in  
13 the broader Bay Area community. He strives to help other California immigrants and  
14 incarcerated people in order to fulfill his goal in life to help people rather than hurt them;  
15 and

16          WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad had no rule violations in prison for 13 years prior to his  
17 hearing with the Parole Board in 2021, and has had no disciplinary violations whatsoever in  
18 ICE detention; and

19          WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad's leadership inside the facility goes beyond his support for  
20 other individuals detained, he has also spoken out about work conditions and safety to  
21 CalOSHA; and

22          WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad fought to protect Californian families from the COVID-19  
23 pandemic by encouraging his peers to connect with California Collaborative for Immigrant  
24 Justice's Vaccine Education & Empowerment in Detention program. He helped other  
25 inmates get their vaccines and boosters; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad also spoke in support of the VISION Act, which will prevent  
2 unnecessary transfers to ICE detention centers in California; and

3           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad improved conditions for other inmates and strengthened the  
4 human rights of all Californians by sharing his own experience with solitary confinement.  
5 Mr. Prasad continues to fight for the California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement, which  
6 would limit confinement durations overall and end solitary confinement for vulnerable  
7 populations. He has fought not just to limit the misuse of solitary confinement for people like  
8 himself, but also for incarcerated people who have disabilities, who are pregnant, and who  
9 are elderly; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad also advocated for immigrant justice at a federal level  
11 through support of The New Way Forward Act, which seeks to end mandatory immigration  
12 detention, automatic deportation practices, and other provisions to enhance equity for  
13 communities of color in the country's immigration laws; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad also evolved as an artist in prison, teaching himself to draw  
15 and specializing in custom greeting cards, especially cards with roses; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad additionally learned vocational trades while in prison, such  
17 as welding, engine work, roofing, plumbing, and carpentry; and

18           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad served his sentence and was released from prison at age  
19 50, but in August of 2021, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
20 transferred him into ICE custody without one day of freedom; and

21           WHEREAS, Shortly after he was detained by ICE, Mr. Prasad's mother passed away  
22 from COVID, and ICE denied him the opportunity to be released, even temporarily, to say  
23 goodbye or to attend her funeral; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad then advocated against the visitation ban in ICE detention  
2 centers, which indefinitely separates detainees from seeing loved ones, and was quoted in  
3 The Bakersfield Californian around this advocacy; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad has been detained by ICE for more than ten months, and  
5 remains there today; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad applied for deferral of removal under the Convention  
7 Against Torture because he fears he will be tortured if deported to Fiji, but an immigration  
8 judge denied his application and ordered his deportation; and

9           WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals in Fiji face discrimination, rejection from their  
10 families and society, and hate crimes; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad's personal growth, community service, and strong ties to the  
12 community clearly demonstrate the efforts he has made to rebuild his life and give back to  
13 others; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad plans to provide mentorship to other survivors of childhood  
15 sexual abuse once he is released; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad's transitional housing should he be released will be in San  
17 Francisco; and

18           WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office houses a deportation  
19 defense unit and currently represents Mr. Prasad; and

20           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad is a member of the LGTBQ+ community, and Mr. Prasad  
21 has the support of many Bay Area community organizations, including Rainbow  
22 Beginnings, a mutual aid organization in San Francisco dedicated to assisting LGBTQ+  
23 migrants, The Asian Prisoner Support Committee, The Asian Law Caucus, The California  
24 Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, and The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity; and  
25

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Prasad has additional support from the Queer Detainee  
2 Empowerment Project, Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants, and  
3 Freedom for Immigrants; and

4           WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is originally from San Francisco, was Mayor of San  
5 Francisco for seven years, and continues to have deep ties to San Francisco; and

6           WHEREAS, If Mr. Prasad is granted a pardon by Governor Newsom, he will no  
7 longer be deportable and will be able to remain with his family and contribute his skills and  
8 gifts to the Bay Area community; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco opposes the removal of  
10 Salesh Prasad from the United States; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges  
12 Governor Newsom to grant Mr. Prasad a full pardon in order for him to remain lawfully in  
13 the United States with his family; and, be it

14           FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor  
15 Newsom, other Federal and State Representatives in San Francisco, and Mr. Prasad's  
16 counsel for appropriate distribution.



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 220774

Date Passed: July 12, 2022

Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Salesh Prasad, a full pardon to allow him to remain in the United States with his family and to continue contributing to his community.

July 12, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

File No. 220774

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/12/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

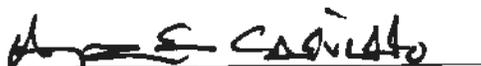
Unsigned

\_\_\_\_\_  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

07/21/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

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

07/21/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date