City and County of San Francisco

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Summary of Testimony of San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey to the Little Hoover Commission, March 25, 2011

As San Francisco's Sheriff I am in charge of 6 jail facilities and currently house about 1800 prisoners on a daily basis. About 40,000 people come through the SF jail during the course of a year. San Francisco relies heavily on ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION to control it's jail population. I manage most of those programs, including programs contracted to Community based organizations. By way of comparison, on Monday of this week (March 21, 2011) I had 1788 prisoners in custody and 2166 persons out of custody in jail alternative programs. It should be noted that the composition of the jail population has changed dramatically over the past several years. (1) There are very few misdemeanants who remain in the county jail, and (2) 52% of the prisoners in the SF jail have previously been to state prison.

As Sheriff, I run prisoner rehabilitation programs both in-custody and post-release. Although the in-custody programs are geared toward making post-release program placements, not all of the in-custody programs have active re-entry components. With regard specifically to REENTRY PROGRAMS, I would like to highlight **7 programs:**

1. The No Violence Alliance. (NoVa)(2006): (Program Summary) According to a published study by the Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice, during a 32 month review of NoVa clients, 36% were rearrested compared to 68% of a comparison group. p.8 No Violence Alliance (NoVA) Project: San Francisco's Model Adult Case Management Reentry Program, Erica Duggan, October 2010. In different, but shorter, study done by the Department between June 2010 and February 2011, 60 of 418 active participants were rearrested, which is a rearrest rate of 38%. Again, it must be emphasized that the NoVA participants are a riskier

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group, all with current or former charges of violence.

2. Resolve to Stop the Violence Project (RSVP)(1997). (Program summary) Has been evaluated over a 6 year period by Dr. James Gilligan and has found that a man who has participated in the program for 4 months is 80% less likely to be rearrested for a violent crime than a non-participant with a similar background.

James Gilligan is on the faculty of New York University where he is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, Adjunct Professor in the School of Law Professor, and Collegiate Professor in the School of Arts and Science. For more than 30 years Dr. Gilligan served on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, where he directed the Institute of Law and Psychiatry and led a team of colleagues from Harvard teaching hospitals in providing mental health and violence prevention services to the Massachusetts prisons and prison mental hospital.

3. Five Keys Charter High School(2003): My Department has established a fully accredited Charter High School for prisoners and ex-offenders. Since 2004 we have had 225 individuals receive their high school degree (any many others receive a certificate of completion or GED). Of the high school graduates, 43% were rearrested within one year of release.

4. Back On Track(2004). This is a program sponsored by the District Attorney (started by our current Attorney General) and is geared toward first time drug sellers. It offers case management, job and education support and the promise of dismissal of charges upon successful completion of the 1 year program. The rearrest rate of participants who complete the program is 10%.

5. Electronic Monitoring: Electronic monitoring has been particularly successful with offenders who have a stable living situation. They are placed either on full house arrest or they are allowed to participate in employment or education, with house arrest when not engaged in approved activities. We have a very high successful completion rate; approximately 95%. We also make participants pay a fee if they have an income.

6. Re-Entry Council: I serve as co-chair of the San Francisco Re-Entry Council. The council was created by the county Board of Supervisors and is composed of 4 co-chairs: The Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Chief Adult Probation Officer and the Mayor. Other members of the council include representatives of State and Federal Parole, Juvenile Probation and a number of ex-

offenders. The council makes recommendations on criminal justice issues and re-entry issues and has published an excellent Resource Guide for Ex-Offenders.

7. Jail Alternative programs: The SFSD operates or contracts to operate a number of jail alternative programs, which can be broken down into 4 general categories:

Electronic Monitoring in lieu of incarceration.

Work or School in lieu of incarceration.

Treatment programs in lieu of incarceration or post-incarceration

Pretrial diversion programs

In total, in our jail alternative programs, we supervise over 2000 individuals daily who are in the criminal justice system. This is a greater number of individuals than we have in actual custody (around 1800 in custody daily).