March 10, 2020

Sheriff Paul Miyamoto  
San Francisco Sheriff Department  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Public health crisis measures in SF county jails

Dear Sheriff Miyamoto,

On behalf of my office’s clients now in your custody and the broader community, I am searching for all possible avenues to enable the release of all people confined in the county jail who are eligible for release, with a particular focus on those who are older or immunocompromised. This will ensure that our most vulnerable populations are not inadvertently being exposed to a life-threatening illness.

One measure it seems in your power to take is to begin assessing all sentenced persons for immediate release on electronic monitoring and work release/SWAP, suspending some or all of the policies that make people ineligible for release, like charge-based exclusions or a requirement that 50% of the sentence has been served. Given the public health emergency, I ask that you exercise your powers in this regard as broadly as possible, releasing as many sentenced persons as you can.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to a speedy response given the circumstances.

Sincerely,

Mano Raju  
Public Defender

cc: Mayor London Breed, City and County of San Francisco  
Dr. Grant Colfax, Department of Public Health  
Mr. Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney