

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY



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Ms. Angela F. Chan  
Asian Law Caucus  
55 Columbus Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. Chan:

I appreciate the effort you have put into the sanctuary and juvenile justice issues we met about today, and I look forward to hearing more specifics about the ideas you mentioned within the next few weeks, as soon as you are ready to provide them.

As we discussed at some length today, my role as City Attorney is neither to make City policy nor to decide how City departments will implement it. Implementation of local ordinances is generally within the purview of the Mayor, Board and City departments; in the case of the amendment pertaining to the confidentiality of juveniles' immigration status, Section 3 of that ordinance explicitly assigns implementation to the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department.

Apart from my duty to provide legal counsel and guidance to City policy makers so that they may make their decisions in light of potential legal implications and risks, it is my responsibility as City Attorney to defend duly enacted city laws. The recent amendment to San Francisco's City of Refuge ("Sanctuary") Ordinance is no exception, and I would reiterate here in writing the assurance I provided you earlier today of my intention to pursue an aggressive, vigorous defense to enable the law's fullest possible force and effect.

I thank you for meeting with me today to discuss your concerns, and look forward to receiving your further ideas about these issues.

Very truly yours,

  
DENNIS J. HERRERA  
City Attorney

cc: Angie Junck, Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Julia Harumi Mass, American Civil Liberties Union  
Robert Rubin, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights  
Abigail Trillin, Legal Services for Children  
Francisco Ugarte, Dolores Street Community Services