

# THE SAN FRANCISCO FINANCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT



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JUSTICE PROJECT**  
SAN FRANCISCO

September 17, 2019



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FINANCIAL  
JUSTICE  
PROJECT**

A first-in-the-nation  
countywide effort to  
alleviate the inequitable  
burden of financial  
penalties on struggling  
San Franciscans.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATIVE FEES: HIGH PAIN, LOW GAIN

## Account Information

**Account type:** 12D Delinquent Adult Probation  
**Status:** Forwarded  
**Interest type:**  
**Last charge amount:** \$0.00  
**Current balance:** \$5,020.00  
**Paid by this defendant:** \$0.00  
**Adjusted:** \$0.00  
**Forwarded to OCA:** Yes  
**Court Number:**

**Number:**  
**Interest start date:** 06/07/2013  
**Interest rate:** 0.00  
**Last payment amount:** \$0.00  
**Original balance:** \$5,020.00  
**Paid by all defendants:** \$0.00  
**Days since entered:** 1529  
**Forwarded to tax intercept:** No  
**CUBS Number:**

## Facility

Code	Incurred Date	Charged Amount	Adjusted Amount	Paid Amount	Canceled Amount	Balance
Pre-Sentence Rept	06/07/2013	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
PenSB1773 2/10	06/07/2013	\$107.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$107.80
CrimConvAssmnt	06/07/2013	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Auto Fingerprint	06/07/2013	\$268.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$268.96
State Penalty 70%	06/07/2013	\$377.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$377.30
EMS Maddy Fund	06/07/2013	\$107.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$107.80
DNA 2nd	06/07/2013	\$210.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$210.70
DNA 1st	06/07/2013	\$53.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.90
State 20% Surchrg	06/07/2013	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00
STConstFund4.99/10	06/07/2013	\$268.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$268.96
Court Operations Assessment	06/07/2013	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Civil Assessment Penalty	06/07/2013	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Crim Lab Fee	06/07/2013	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Admin Fee	06/07/2013	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
HS BF County	06/07/2013	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00
2%StateAtmFnd	06/07/2013	\$31.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.80
Booking Fee	06/07/2013	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00
Base Fine	06/07/2013	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CCA ICNA	06/07/2013	\$0.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.54
Probation Costs	06/07/2013	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Restitution Fine	06/07/2013	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$280.00
MovingCrtConstrctn	06/07/2013	\$0.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.54
HS BF State	06/07/2013	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$375.00
State Penalty 30%	06/07/2013	\$161.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$161.70



## BAIL IN SAN FRANCISCO: KEY FINDINGS

- Money paid to a private bail company – up to 10% of the bail amount – is not refundable, even when the person shows up for trial or the charges are dropped.
- Bail posted in San Francisco averaged \$56,000 in 2016, San Francisco bail is among the state's most expensive
- In total, San Franciscans pay as much as \$10-15 million a year in nonrefundable bail fees to private bail bond companies.

# APPROACH



## The Context:

1) What is the goal of the fine or fee?

Fees: Generate revenue, such as criminal justice administrative fees

Fines: Change or deter behavior, such as parking tickets?

2) Who receives the fines/fees?

- Issued to people with a wide range of incomes? E.g., parking tickets
- Primarily assessed to one demographic? E.g. administrative fees charged to people exiting the criminal justice system



## Potential Solutions:

1) Base the Fine or Fee on Ability to Pay

2) Create nonmonetary solutions, such as community service, receiving social services, or educational opportunities

3) Eliminate the fine or fee

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE



Launched **payment plan & community service** options for low-income people who receive **parking citations**



**Cut towing fees in half** for low-income people



**Reduced boot removal fees by 80%** for low-income people



**Created new ability to pay process with the San Francisco Traffic Court** to allow low-income people to apply for discounts



**Cleared 88,000 holds on driver's licenses** for people who missed a traffic court date



**Eliminated criminal justice administrative fees** and waived \$33 million in debt owed by 21,000 people



Allow people struggling with homelessness to **resolve quality of life citations** by receiving social services instead of fine



**Eliminated \$110 water shut off fees**



**Eliminated overdue library fines**, and waived \$1.5 million in debt stemming from overdue fines



Announced SF would make **phone calls from county jail free**; stop marking up items in jail store



Launched **San Francisco Museums for All** - allows free entry to museums with a public benefits card

# PARTNERS

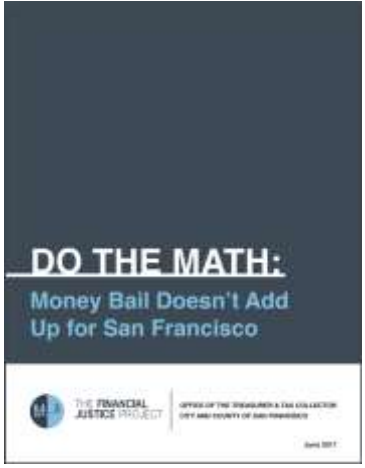
## City/County Departments and the Courts

- Adult Probation Department
- Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
- District Attorney's Office
- Human Rights Commission
- Human Services Agency
- Library
- Mayor's Office
- Municipal Transportation Agency
- Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- Public Defender's Office
- Public Utilities Commission
- Sheriff's Department
- Superior Court

Dozens of **community based organizations**, including legal aid providers, homeless service providers, reentry service providers, and grassroots advocates



# REPORTS & RESOURCES



[www.sftreasurer.org/financialjustice](http://www.sftreasurer.org/financialjustice)

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