

# MAGIC COMMUNITY CONVENER MEETING

Thursday, February 2, 2023 1:00pm – 3:00pm PST

Hosted at: [Online via Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: 871 6041 1673

BMAGIC, 1275 Fairfax Ave., Ste. 201, SF 94124

Facilitated by: BMAGIC & Mo'MAGIC

Brittany Ford, Moira Dumo Rios, Nayansey Curiel, Kayla Kunze & Vanessa Soriano

## AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2023:

### INTRODUCTIONS

- ◇ Welcome, housekeeping and overview of the agenda.

#### In attendance:

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cristy sanchez	cristy.sanchez@sfpl.org
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## PRESENTATIONS

- ◇ **Mano Raju** - Public Defender, San Francisco Office of the Public Defender | Budget Updates. We provide legal services to anyone. We fight for the rights of detained immigrants. We have over 200 justice warriors. Half of our staff is lawyers and the other half of the staff is clerical, IT, MAGIC, investigators, paralegals. Community informed vision. First word you see in the mission, “fiercely defend” we don’t want to be “public pretenders” we want to provide better representation as if you had to pay. Training director, came from Contra Costa, how can take our operations to the next level. To do that is our values. There’s a standard in law, I don’t want competence I want EXCELLENCE. Over charging, being charged for things they shouldn’t be. How do we empower the client? How to be a top trial attorney. SUper important to us. It takes courage. Sitting in jail with client, takes courage to do. We need courageous defenders in the office. Compassion, it’s more than empathy. We want to empathize with what someone is going through but we also want to do something about it. Help people to get to a better place than where they are. Love, this job is too hard if you don’t have the love for the client. Our decisions should be backed up by these values. Defending and confronting. Mass incarceration in the new jim crow, book. Pushing for, not just against. For opportunities so that they don’t end up in the system. How do we gather the data, to help with pushing policy, at a higher level. We’re warriors, counselors, change agents. A lot of clients feel like they haven’t been seen. We really emphasize seeing the clients. Really seeing people. Social workers, access needs, and set up for success, substance abuse counseling, jobs etc. How do we reshape how do we public defend. What we can do, is do it at the highest level possible. **The San Francisco Public Defender** protects and defends the rights of indigent adults and youth accused of crimes, and immigrants facing deportation. Led by Mano Raju, California's only elected Public Defender, our team of 110 attorneys and 106 non-attorneys members provide zealous, compassionate, and creative legal representation to over 20,000 people annually. We aspire to provide the highest level of legal advocacy, and to be the state and nationwide model for transformative public defense services. How do we end the suffering. Whatever happens to your client, entire family is impacted. In many ways, financially, emotionally. A lot of people wont speak about themselves the way family member would. Transform ourselves. A book by Brian Stevenson, “Just Mercy” wrongfully convicted. We encourage these practices. **Our Mission:** Fiercely defend individuals, confront state sponsored violence, and advocate for community power. **Our Values:** Love compassion, courage, excellence. **Our Theory of Change:** When we fiercely defend individuals, confront state sponsored violence, and advocate for community power, then our communities are better able to resist injustice and fight for self-determination and freedom. Our Office: Confront & Advocate, communications integrity - police accountability state and local policy. Defend: Felony, misdemeanor, mental health, pre-trial release, paralegals, clean slate, training. Operations: payroll - finance & planning, clerical, human resources, technology, freedom project - post conviction, immigration, re-entry, alternative courts, investigators, youth defenders, MAGIC. Warriors - Counselors - Change Agents. **We defend our community’s** most vulnerable and disenfranchised. 100% low-income, many live in poverty, or suffer, from homelessness. 75% suffer from mental illness or substance use issues. 10% immigrants or non-English speakers. **In the Court:** We aggressively advocated for justice for our clients in the courts while addressing the trial backlog through “Open the Courts”
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advocacy. Across both Felony and Misdemeanor clients, nearly 1,208 cases were dismissed. Also Provide: • Support upon arrest and booking into San Francisco Jail • Pre-trial support and preparation • Mental health support and advocacy • Diversion court support and advocacy • Youth & family support in the Juvenile Court System • Law enforcement accountability. Black 51%, White 24%, Latino 16%, { } We really believe in this empowerment model. In the community, MAGIC program. Backpack Giveaways, make a program that works. That really see's youth, a big part of what PDR does. Clean slate, we're working in Sacramento in shortening our probation. For centuries, we increased our Clean slate team and outreaching, capping probation to one year or two. Assist children of incarcerated parents. Make sure that the parent in the system also gets the support they need. We pride ourselves on not being pretenders. Make sure we are all on the same page. **Our achievements:****Trial Success:** Our Felony and Misdemeanor Units obtained acquittals, dismissals, hangs or mixed verdicts in approx. 85% of the cases we tried. I approached the treasurer. to lose a lot of economically and diverse jury because they only pay \$15 a day, everyone raises their hand for financial hardship. Now pay \$100 a day. So many people detained, so we sued ICE detention, and ensured better health protections for those still detained. • **Be the Jury:** Launched in March 2022 working closely with community partners, city agencies and San Francisco's Treasurer's Office. Aimed at eliminating financial hardships so low-income jurors can serve on juries. To date 425 participants have successfully enrolled. • **Immigration Win:** In 2021/22 we assisted with a federal case winning a groundbreaking settlement, requiring immigration authorities to preserve COVID-19 safety measures and led to the liberation of hundreds of non-citizens from immigration detention. Had this policy would have been in place, Tyre Nichols would still be here. • **Policy to End Racist Traffic Stops:** In 2022-23 we worked with community partners to limit police from stopping community members for nine categories of vehicle code violations. In the future, this will lead to 10K fewer pretext traffic stops a year, lowering arrest rates. • **Clean Slate Expansion:** Established partnerships leading to monthly community clinics at YCD, The Hub (Latino Task Force), SFPD Cares, and Arriba Juntos. Continuing assistance with expungements and clears clients' criminal records, removing barriers to employment, housing, and education for 708 clients last year. **A Budget for Justice:** Non personal services 2.7% supplies .3% City Services 5% 92% Staff

- ◇ **FY 2020-21** \$42,256703 Defense Team Members: 199
- ◇ **FY 2021-22** \$45,292551 Defense Team Members: 210
- ◇ **FY 2022-23** \$49,090429 Defense Team Members: 220

**Non personal services 2.7% supplies .3% City Services 5% 92% Staff We're (PDR) about 4% of the entire budget.**

Being a defender is a harder job. Contact experts, 9 or 10 life cases all at the same time. Not uncommon, at the same time, This is very very stressful work. Taxing and trying but exhilarating and rewarding.

**A call for equity.** The District Attorney's Office budget is **\$76 million**. At **\$292 million** the Sheriff's Department budget is six times larger, at **\$628 million** the Police Department budget is **thirteen times** larger. As long as I am Public Defender: **2023 Goals:** ▶ Continue to raise the standard for excellence in public defense ▶ Fight to end humanitarian crisis in our jails caused by the Court trial backlogs ▶ Address substance use disorder crisis by advocating for evidence-based public health solutions ▶ Continue to work to close Juvenile Hall ▶ State Policy Campaigns: Take "Be the Jury" Statewide; End ICE Transfers from Prison; Reimagine Youth Restitution; Protections for criminalized survivors. **Call to Action: Support our Budget and our Office Goals** ▶ Advocate with us for our **state policy priorities**, including Be the Jury California state bill ▶ Join us in actions to **Open the Courts, and end the humanitarian crisis in the jails**. Open up all the courts. Continue to work to close Juvenile Hall. Eliminate transferring from/to ICE. Remembering victims. To learn more: follow us: Twitter: @ManoRujuPD @sfdefender. IG: @sfpublicdefender @manorajupd I've been told we're the gold standard but I am not satisfied. Took an oath to continue to do. Grateful for all of you and your support. How do you advocate for better defense from SF to San Mateo County: SMC has a "private defender" **Angela Chan:** (Feb 9, 2023, 1:46 PM)The District Attorney's Office

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halted intake to the restorative justice program as of August 2022. We are actively working to advocate for them to unpause the program. <https://wearedefender.com/> There is a coalition in San Mateo called the San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights that has done some work to push for a real public defender office in San Mateo. It's work in progress. Restorative justice question: plan? Mano: Halted now, but want to grow it bigger and bolder. How do we address the harm and move people into a better place, address the issue in a positive way. Processes in this country. Breakout of cuffing and caging. Carolyn: Be the Jury: Statewide, AM Phil Ting, will take to the next Wednesday, steps of 850 Bryant, send emails around. Need stories, of impact to drive the policy.

## ◇ **Emily Goldman - Managing Attorney, Youth Defender Unit | Juvenile Hall Updates:**

Comment on two questions earlier: For those kids going to San Mateo County, please don't hesitate to reach out us, in the youth defenders program. Unlike adult court, they sentence in the county of residence. REstorative justice: critical part of the system and without it the system fails all parties. in the youth system, "make it right" we have not had a referral to that program since August although we have been told is it alive and well. We should be letting the DA, Mayor and BOS know. I am the managing attorney in youth defender program. I am from SF born and raised, went to public school system and failed miserably in fact, dropped out in HS and i wanted to do something for this community and identify with, went to law school to do exactly what I am doing right now for 25 years now. What we do is we advocate for our clients, to help them be successful and out of the system and be successful community members. Alarming trends we are seeing, double capacity, very concerning to us, and very young 14 year olds and younger, 12 year olds, entering system with issues that need attention, significant trauma. Acute mental health issues. It needs to be addressed. We are talking about closing juvenile hall, make no mistake it is a very isolating punitive place. Better place, with better practices, the most vulnerable kids are coming into juvenile hall and having intersection with the system. Although we would like to see it close. We should call them by their first name and not last, kids should be able to call, to get support, put something by their door. Wear their own clothes, doors shouldn't lock and be isolated. There's a lot of things we can do, kids need connections. They need their families, and connections of their community. We are a small unit. Kim is always there facilitating, these are all of our childrens. Open door policy, give us a call. We welcome you to the courtroom, youth defense is confidential, and it rests with the child. Under the umbrella of confidentiality, some light. Alida: special education advocates, waitlist to get therapist is months, trauma based and speak a second language waitlist is even longer. One of the things we struggle with, very often students of color get judged by behavior, they get criminalized before we help them. Emily: it's hard to think of fire prevention when the house is on fire, behavior is a manifestation of their unmet needs. Convince prosecutors, judges, and everyone of this. What do we do about it? I don't know, in our office we are trying to get an educational attorney, like we used to, they understood the ins and outs of IEPs, SFUSD, I am looking for our CBOs for our help. We need people that understand this population. Carolyn: Free mental helath care in SF. There's organizing to do. Happy to talk to folks, and building up a grassroots campaign for maybe next year. Alida would love to talk offline. Trade opportunities in Juvie? Emily: very limited. A program is being discussed. A lot of discussion and not a lot of action. Are there opportunities for mentorship? the parents and judges want it. Epiphany's and want to pay it back. We have kids really want to connect with people that want to offer that experience and would really welcome that. Youth Defender Unit Phone Number: 415-753-7601

## **A. Phillip Randolph Institute - India Basin Waterfront Park Initiative Update and Donor**

Recognition Feedback: 3 and a half almost 4 years. Chica, Darell, will present. Rendering of India Basin water front project. India Basin Community Profile. The community had a voice in planning this. All of us are working together for this park to be for us, by us. Areas of focus, Arts & Culture, Workforce, Connectivity and transit safety. Health communitities, Equitable Development Plan Update: hypecourt, construction skills workforce development, bayview safety swim and splash, ongoing Events: Fall fest, Teen nights, sankora markets etc. Local artist, musicians

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come out, safe space for youth to come out and have fun. **Priorities for Park Development:** Phase 2 of park construction underway, they helped build tunnel tops. **Heroes of India Basin: Purpose:** commitment to community. Donors select from a catalog, and call them Heroes, today we want your feedback and build out the list. Shout out/ Thank you to Bayview historical society for providing imagery. **PURPOSE**  
To center the BVHP community in all facets of the initiative's work, the campaign will dedicate donor recognition opportunities in the newly development Park to Heroes of India Basin -local or national civil rights and social justice leaders whose significant contributions to society advanced justice and equality within India Basin and beyond. Support the development of the India Basin Waterfront Parks designed in partnership with the Bayview-Hunters Point community • Prevent further displacement of the Black community living and working in Bayview-Hunters Point • Acknowledge and correct historic and systemic environmental injustices within Bayview-Hunters Point • Provide sustained resources that support and guide ongoing community organizing, capacity-building, and decision-making efforts within the area • Leverage the Park as a catalyst for environmental remediation and regeneration. **Priorities for park development:** Create inspiring and amenity-rich waterfront parks that build community capacity and are reflective of the Bayview community • Address decades of environmental contamination from boat building and repair activities • Create a resilient, healthy and adaptive shoreline and community. **Proposed programming:** Art & Culture, Community Spaces, Shoreline Access Boating & Fishing Wildlife Habitat Sports & Play Areas Playgrounds, Food pavilion, fitness stations, picnic areas. **Highlight Features:** Shipwright's Cottage, Food Pavilion. Maker/Event space & Kayak launch. **Heroes of India Basin:**

Activity, to help us expand. [Your input is Needed!](#) There's a sign-up sheet for the newsletter. [www.lbwaterfrontparks.com](http://www.lbwaterfrontparks.com)  
[rpinfo@sfgov.org](mailto:rpinfo@sfgov.org)

Great meeting: Brittany: love meeting people where they are. Next meeting hopefully in the Western Addition. A lot of things going on today but we scheduled first lol but thank you for coming today.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◇ [General Announcements Shared Drive](#) - Email Moira to share General Announcements: [moira@magic-sf.org](mailto:moira@magic-sf.org) General Announcements Shared Drive - Mo'MAGIC
  - ◇ **Zoe Kurtz:** Hi everyone, I'm Zoe Kurtz, the program manager for Mission Bit. We have free coding classes for high schoolers, and we offer a \$550 stipend for 94124 students who complete a class!
  - ◇ **Angela Chan:** For more information about the Coalition to End Biased Stops, check out: <https://www.endbiasedstopssf.org/>. Here's an op-ed that Mano wrote last year urging for funding parity between public defender offices compared to the district attorney, police, and sheriffs: [https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/opinion-if-you-want-to-work-towards-justice-fund-your-local-public-defender/article\\_ce1fae30-6f92-59c5-ac3a-2548c0b04d7d.html](https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/opinion-if-you-want-to-work-towards-justice-fund-your-local-public-defender/article_ce1fae30-6f92-59c5-ac3a-2548c0b04d7d.html).
  - ◇ **Charlotte:** After hours program this Thursday, 5:30pm - 9:00pm next Thursday, 2.16.23 glow in the dark and hands on light activities,
  - ◇ **Kurt** - APRI February 21st job readiness training piece for a career in construction. We'd like for them to build this park. Opportunity can last 2-3 years, Union job, union wages, union benefits. TAYS kids, job readiness program. If they don't do this program they can do another. Paid opportunities, number 2 in highest earning. Youth 17 on up, after a few years they can afford to live here in SF.
  - ◇ **Joshua:** Leave some cards, help support org, starting to prepare recruitment for next onboarding of youth commission, 6 appointed by the mayor. really fun, and youth are dedicated.
  - ◇ Eli - Outward Bound: High School summer expeditions, travel with 9 other students, everything paid for. Fully
  - ◇ **Kesha:** Single Release listening party for Shante S, Flyer will be shared 7:30pm - 10:00pm if you bring socks, or hygiene kits, you will be entered into a raffle. On the 19th Arts, 11:00am - 3:00pm, free
  - ◇ **Zy:** Friends at the urban forest, hiring a community coordinator. Have some applications.
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- ◇ **Alida:** Please share with families support for children with disabilities conference, it's in person this year on March 18th at John O'Connell. Workshops for families, youth empowerment for youth. [www.supportforfamilies.org](http://www.supportforfamilies.org)
- ◇ **Legacy:** Upcoming groups for March, Triple P parenting class geared towards teens. Ages 12-17 12 sessions and very informative and will leave flyers. New course: Youth group 15-22 TAY coming up in March. Strengthen our stories, history and how to use storytelling as a coping tool. Cash incentives. Looking for space for a showcase. Look for this flyer.
- ◇ **Vernon** Walk SF - New curriculum, want to push it out for 3rd-5th program, street safety strolls, how to identify safety structures around school, short presentations and build out a safer way to get to a local library, park, school etc.
- ◇ **Zoe:** Mission Bit has free coding classes. Our online, self-paced class is still open for spring registration, and our summer application will open in the next few weeks. Find both at <https://missionbit.org/classes> We offer \$550 stipends for 94124 students who complete a course!

## NEXT CONVENER MEETING

- ◇ Mo'MAGIC: Thursday, March 2nd 11am-12pm
  - ◇ BMAGIC: Tuesday, March 21st 1pm-3pm
  - ◇ If you are interested in presenting at a future Convener Meeting, fill out these forms: [BMAGIC](#) | [Mo'MAGIC](#)
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