

# SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER

JEFF ADACHI – PUBLIC DEFENDER  
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 27, 2019

**CONTACT:**

Katy St. Clair  
Public Information Officer  
San Francisco Public Defender's Office  
415-575-4390 (office)  
628-249-7946 (cell)

**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

## **Board of Supes Unanimously Passes**

### **Jeff Adachi Youth Rights ordinance**

*San Francisco*—Youths ages 17 and below that are detained by San Francisco police officers will now be guaranteed to have an attorney present during their Miranda advisement and the authorities are required to have a parent or guardian present during their questioning, Juvenile Division Manager for the San Francisco Public Defender's Office Patricia Lee announced today.

Ordinance No. 181217 has been named for late Public Defender Jeff Adachi and was passed unanimously. The "Jeff Adachi Youth Rights" ordinance is the first of its kind in California, and Lee hopes that similar guidelines will soon be implemented throughout the state.

"Our youth are incredibly scared and vulnerable when they are asked to talk to the police, and many of them cannot understand what their rights are," said Lee. "I've represented 12-year-olds who don't even understand what a lawyer is or what the courts do. This ordinance ensures that they will have an advocate for them who will make sure that they understand what is happening."

The right to waive legal counsel will not be allowed to be applied to youth, as well. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, youth 15 and under were required to have an attorney present, but now thanks to the Board of Supervisors the ordinance will apply to all youth 17 and under.

Supervisor Hillary Ronan lead the charge for these changes and posted on her Facebook page that this ordinance "creates the strongest law in the country protecting children and youth in police custody."

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**Adult Division - HOJ**  
555 Seventh Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
P: 415.553.1671  
F: 415.553.9810  
[www.sfpublishedefender.org](http://www.sfpublishedefender.org)

**Juvenile Division - YGC**  
375 Woodside Avenue, Rm. 118  
San Francisco, CA 94127  
P: 415.753.7601  
F: 415.566.3030

**Juvenile Division - JJC**  
258A Laguna Honda Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
P: 415.753.8174  
F: 415.753.8175

**Clean Slate**  
P: 415.553.9337  
[www.sfpublishedefender.org/services](http://www.sfpublishedefender.org/services)

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[www.bayviewmagic.org](http://www.bayviewmagic.org)

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P: 415.563.5207  
[www.momagic.org](http://www.momagic.org)

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The Public Defender's Office is currently in mourning at the sudden death of Jeff Adachi, who was just elected to his fifth term as Public Defender.

"We are so excited to have this important legislation be named in honor of our fearless visionary leader, Jeff Adachi, who championed the rights of youth and provided a level of resources not only to our juvenile unit but to the communities in San Francisco where our youth and families reside," said Lee. "Through this ordinance, Jeff is still championing the rights of our youth. This decision will have a far-reaching impact on youth in SF and hopefully soon in the rest of California and the nation. Rest in power, Jeff Adachi!"

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