



Office of the Public Defender
City and County of San Francisco

Manohar Raju
Public Defender
Matt Gonzalez
Chief Attorney

July 20, 2020

Dear King County Councilmembers and Seattle City Councilmembers,

I am the Managing Attorney for the Juvenile Division of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and serve on the Board of the National Juvenile Defender Center, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council, Center for Families Children and the Courts. I am a core member of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, and an appointed Committee member for the National Academy of Science on a Prioritized Plan to Implement a Developmental Approach in Juvenile Justice Reform. For almost 40 years, I have represented youth in San Francisco's juvenile court.

Last February, I worked with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to *unanimously* pass the "Jeff Adachi Youth Rights" ordinance, which prohibits custodial police interrogations of youth 17 years of age or younger, unless youth first consult with an attorney. This ordinance expands upon state legislation in California (SB 395 -- effective Jan. 1, 2018), which mandated that youths 15 years of age or younger consult with legal counsel prior to a custodial interrogation or a waiver of *Miranda* rights.

The "Jeff Adachi Youth Rights" ordinance received no opposition from law enforcement or the San Francisco District Attorney. Since the ordinance passed last February, my office has consulted with many incredibly scared, isolated, and confused youth about their constitutional rights. My attorneys and I have provided these youth with critical legal advice to help them understand what was happening. I believe that my clients distrust the system less because they understand their rights and how to exercise them.

I urge the King County Council and the Seattle City Council to pass a Youth Right to Counsel Ordinance to protect the rights of our youth and to advance racial justice as we work together to obtain a more just future.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lee

Patricia Lee
Managing Attorney
San Francisco Public Defender's Office, Juvenile Unit