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# San Francisco Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priorities for FY's 2016-17 and 2017-18

Presentation to the BOS Budget & Finance Committee  
Wednesday, May 23, 2016



## Priority 1: Invest in education and engagement of young voters

- After low voter turnout elections; a November 2014 ballot with lots of youth issues; positive examples of 16-17 year old voting in other cities and countries; and witnessing increasing suppression efforts around the country, youth commissioners became interested in how to increase young voter participation
- We were pleased to see the voting age issue engage hundreds of young people and supporters, including a dedicated cohort of 19 new leaders with the youth empowerment academy we led out of our office this year
- Thank you to this Board for sharing the chamber with us May 3rd, hearing our research, and supporting the voting age charter amendment!

## Priority 1: Updates

### Other opportunities in the year ahead:

- 16-17 year old pre-registration
- School district stepping up voter education curriculum and student registration efforts
- Dept. of elections engaging HS students as poll workers voter education week ambassadors: 1,000 at both June and November elections

## Priority 1: Recommendations

***We urge Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors to continue to explore ways to increase participation and education of young voters, by continuing the already-successful student engagement programs led by the Department of Elections; by partnering with the school district to support its efforts to register students to vote; and by exploring opportunities for resourcing peer-led young voter pre-registration and engagement efforts targeting 16 and 17 year old San Franciscans.***

## **Priority 2: Engage youth in community benefit districts and community benefit agreements**

- Importance of youth voice in government decisions
- 2014-15 Youth Commission District 6 CBA Youth Townhall
- Citizen Advisory Committees lead the input process for Community Benefit Agreements and Community Benefit Districts
- Youth Commissioners inquiring into feasibility of youth seats on CBA and CBD Citizen Advisory Committees

## **Priority 2: Recommendations**

***The commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, and all other relevant entities to include at least one youth seat(s) in Citizen Advisory Committees involved in every Community Benefit District and Community Benefit Agreement.***

### Priority 3: Prioritize youth workforce development with technology companies

- Workforce development remains a priority for San Francisco's youth and was most highlighted issue at our 2015 D6 CBA townhall
- Some companies involved in CBA's are already creating employment or internship opportunities for youth
- Met with OEWD to discuss and planning further discussions on embracing existing workforce infrastructure to accommodate the employment needs of SF youth (i.e., Summer Jobs + ), as well as meetings with sf.citi

### Priority 3: Recommendations

*Youth commissioners want to see young people have access to the opportunities accompanying the many technology companies present in San Francisco. As youth attending our CBA townhall highlighted the need for employment opportunities, **the Youth Commission recommends that the City work closely with technology companies in San Francisco to advance youth employment opportunities.***

### **Priority 4: Invest in alternatives to building a new jail and to incarceration**

- December 7, 2015 YC hearing had huge turnout from youth, most directly impacted by criminal justice system
- YC was in favor of the late 2015 rejection of proposed capital plan amendment, and funds for jail replacement project
- Supervisor Breed's resolution establishing a working group for plan to close county jails 3 and 4. YC recommended formerly incarcerated young person to sit on that working group

### **Priority 4: Youth Commission's position on Jail Construction and Replacement**

- Alternatives to incarceration support family unity
  - A majority of people in SF county jails are parents
  - Parental incarceration adversely impacts children and youth
- Alternatives to incarceration support young adults
  - 25% in county jails are transitional age youth 18-25
  - Young adult court launched in 2015 is providing alternatives
- Young people want the city's capital investments to reflect their values
  - Young San Franciscans would be responsible for repaying cost of jail

## **Priority 4: Recommendations**

Youth Commissioners commend the Board of Supervisors' leadership on this issue.

- 1. Invest in alternatives to incarceration, especially for TAY, parents, and people with mental illness.**
- 1. Provide needed services in open-door, non-detention settings, including mental health, job placement, and educational resources**
- 1. Continue including impacted youth in the effort to envision alternatives to incarceration.**

## **Priority 5: Improve Services and Supports for Children with Incarcerated Parents**

- Over half of all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were parents of one or more children under the age of 18.
- Incarceration is one of the most adverse of childhood experiences
- DCYF Community Needs Assessment found that 17,993 children and youth were estimated to have had a parent who spent time in either county jail or state prison in 2010.

## Priority 5: Updates

### Time of Arrest

- SFPD, DA's office, and Sheriff have developed or are developing time of arrest protocols that support children when a parent is arrested

### Visitation Policies

- Sheriff Hennessy is committed to implementing the 16-17 year old visiting policy in county jails. YC, BOS, Reentry Council, and state legislation committee supported SB 1157 on retaining in-person visitation in county jails

### School District Support

- School district is implementing broad supports, including staff training, curriculum review, CIP programming, and creating a jail liaison from district

## Priority 5: Recommendations

1. Expand training on SFPD DGO 7.04 time-of-arrest protocols and ensure regular evaluations of the policy
1. Continue, advertise, and evaluate family-positive visiting policies
1. Assist the school district's efforts to support students with incarcerated parents by establishing a family-focused school-district liaison role inside the jails

## **Priority 6: Increase services and supports for homeless youth and declare 2017 the year of recognizing homeless youth**

- Federal goal of ending youth and family homelessness by 2020
- In 2015-16, Youth Commissioners collaborated with the Larkin Street Youth Advisory Board (YAB) around addressing the needs of homeless youth in San Francisco
- On any given day in the US, there are between 353,000-503,000 youth (12-24) experiencing homelessness, yet only about 4,000 youth shelter beds available across the nation
- In San Francisco alone, approximately 3,200 children under the age of nineteen are homeless.

## **Priority 6: Recommendations**

- 1. Declare 2017 the Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth**
- 2. Dedicate staff to addressing and reporting on youth and TAY homelessness**
- 3. Revisit the youth homeless count methodology**



## Priority 7: Fund and complete the Transitional Age Youth Housing Plan contiguous with a TAY Navigation Center

- In San Francisco, it is estimated that there are near 8,000 disconnected TAY--youth between the ages of 16-24 who will not make the successful transition into adulthood.
- In 2005, then-Mayor Gavin Newsom created The Transitional Aged Youth Taskforce, which recommended "more accessible housing for disconnected TAY" was a high priority
- MOH convened working group that authored 2015 TAY housing plan to create 400 units of housing for TAY
- Neighborhood opposition to projects and the recession cut into progress toward the 2015 400 unit goal

## Priority 7: Updates

- Some units completed, under construction, or in pre-development, but 130 units still need to be identified
- 2014 Youth Commission Housing and Affordability Townhall
- Mayor's Office of Housing conducted a TAY Housing Assessment, findings released Summer 2016 to guide investment in TAY housing models
- New proposal to create a TAY-serving Navigation center
- Success of navigation center model relies on units of available housing

## **Priority 7: Recommendations**

- 1. Complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan and establish a new TAY Housing goal.**
- 2. Plan and budget for for the on-site supportive service needs of TAY in supportive housing and address TAY emergency housing needs in the interim.**
- 3. Explore other ways to promote positive housing outcomes for TAY. (ie, financial education, move-in subsidies, tenants' rights education)**

## **Priority 8: Increase supports for vital TAY services in the new Children and Youth Fund**

- 74% voter approval of TAY-inclusive Children & Youth fund in 2014
- YC previously recommended bridge funding for TAY services
- Fund increased by quarter cent per year for four years beginning in 2015-16 resulting in \$8-10 million in growth per year. Has resulted in several exciting investments in afterschool and summer programming
- Two years into the new CYF, disconnected TAY services make up small percentage of growth of CYF fund
- Current community needs assessment will guide CYF investment for five years beginning in 2018-19

## Priority 8: Recommendations

*Youth commissioners recommend that Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors support the development of an interim allocation plan for vital TAY services for 2016-17 that accounts for those CYF-eligible needs outlined in the report "Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth 2014-2016: Recommendations to Improve the Lives of TAY in San Francisco;" and that this plan reflect TAY-eligibility for the CYF growth funds in an amount proportional to those other age groups that are currently funded by both the CYF growth and base funds.*

## Priority 9: Ensure police officers are trained on effectively interacting with youth, including school resource officers

- Police-Youth interaction has been a longstanding priority of the Youth Commission
- Since 2014 police-community relations strained, with 2016 student walkouts
- March 2012 joint police-youth commission meeting resulted in YC recommendations on police training and SFPD-SFUSD MOU
- In 2015, CYW was working on developing a pilot training on adverse childhood experiences for SFPD. May still be piloted with Crisis Intervention Team.
- 2014 SFPD-SFUSD MOU led to sharp decline in on-campus arrests. Still awaiting a student-inclusive MOU oversight committee.

## Priority 9: Recommendations

1. **Train both new and advanced officers on effectively interacting with youth.** Training should offer practical communication skills and best practices for working with youth that are grounded in developmental psychology. Training should include de-escalation skills and strategies for asserting authority effectively with youth; incorporate scenarios of real life police-youth interactions which include youth in those training components; and offer officers an opportunity to practice and apply their new skills.
1. **Ensure successful implementation of the SFUSD-SFPD MOU, ongoing monitoring of on-campus arrests, and comprehensive training of school resource officers**

## Priority 10: Implement efforts to track LGBTQ youth in city services and fund cultural competency training efforts

- Adopted June 1999, Chapter 12N of the San Francisco Administrative Code--entitled *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training*--mandates training with very specific criteria regarding LGBTQ youth sensitivity of all city employees who work with youth, and all city contractors who receive \$50,000 or more in City (or City-administered) funds
- YC worked with HRC and DPH to create a training for DPH staff
- 12N has remained an unfunded mandate for the past seventeen years. Depts have limited resources to develop trainings

## **Priority 10: Background, continued**

- In June 2013 Board of Supervisors held a hearing on 12N implementation efforts. 2014 Sup Avalos and YC convened working group with depts
- Seeing movement on data tracking issues at state level with Asm Chiu's AB 959 "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Disparities Reduction Act" passed in 2015
- Sup Wiener has introduced a similar local ordinance (File No. 160362) that would require city departments and contractors that provide health care and social services to seek to collect and analyze data concerning the sexual orientation and gender identity of the clients they serve

## **Priority 10: Recommendations**

1. Identify and dedicate funding sources to support Chapter 12N Implementation, as well as support planning and coordination of implementation efforts
1. Urge youth-serving city departments to collect data on sexual orientation and gender identity
1. Commit to providing the staff training needed to successfully implement the data collection efforts and to ensure city staff and contractors are properly trained to address or refer out for support needs that arise through such discussions

## Priority 11: Continue support for the Free MUNI for youth program

- Free Muni for Youth has been the result of a multi-year effort and committed policy priority of the Youth Commission, community partners, and youth driven advocacy. The effort began in response to proposed increase in youth transit fares in 2009
- On December 4, 2012, the SFMTA approved the Free Muni for Youth Pilot program with additional funds from the MTC, and launched the program in March 2013. In February 2014, Google agreed to donate \$6.8M to support the continuation of the program over the next two fiscal years
- On April 15, 2014 the SFMTA approved budget that included 18 year olds in the Free Muni for Youth program, removed all "pilot" language from the youth pass program, and passed a resolution expressing the MTA's commitment to continuing the program far into the future

## Priority 11: Recommendations

*The YC is extremely grateful for the continued support from the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, SF Municipal Transportation Agency, and Google in previous years that made it possible for youth to enjoy free MUNI today.*

*We encourage the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and SFMTA to continue their support and commit to funding the permanent Free Muni for Youth program.*

## Priority 12: Support an Accessible and Robust City College of San Francisco

- California students have faced rising tuition cost and reductions to in-state enrollment within the CSU and UC system over the last several years
- Few issues have such an impact of young San Franciscans' as the presence of a affordable, accessible City College that is dedicated to serving the needs of its diverse students
- Despite weathering accreditation threats, the college has lost 10,000 full-time students since 2012, costing \$4,700 in funding each. State funds dedicated to stabilizing the college (\$44 million this year and \$25 million next year) are set to sunset in 2017

## Priority 12: Recommendations

1. **Ensure democratic and student-inclusive governance and maintain the open access mission of the college**
1. **Explore innovative ways to restore enrollment rates at the college**
1. **Defend the college against future attacks in its accreditation or open access mission.** The commission encourages the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to begin considering a plan for College and City's response in the case of another harmful decision by the ACCJC after restoration period

**Thank you very much!**

**Questions? Comments?**

*For more information: [www.sfgov.org/yc](http://www.sfgov.org/yc)*

