

Good afternoon, Supervisors.

My name is Aleks Faynleyb, and I am a WIOA Policy and Data Specialist with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

I'm also a proud San Francisco native, an immigrant, a member of the LGBTQ community, and part of the sober community here in this city. This work is deeply personal to me.

I support workforce programs because I've lived through the kinds of barriers these programs are designed to address, including navigating homelessness here in San Francisco. Being able to help others access employment and stability is not just my job, it's something I care deeply about.

I'm here today because my position has been selected for layoff in two weeks, and I want to share a few key facts.

First, my role is 100% federally and state funded through WIOA. Eliminating my position does not reduce the City's General Fund deficit.

Second, I am the only staff member in my office who reviews and approves WIOA applications on a daily basis. These applications are required for federal and state compliance and are highly time-sensitive.

In addition, I serve as the primary technical point of contact for over a *dozen* workforce providers, and I process more than *1,000* participant applications each year, ensuring compliance with complex federal and state requirements.

Without this function, the City risks delays in service delivery, disruption to workforce programs, and noncompliance with federal and state requirements.

Third, the impact of these cuts is highly concentrated. In OEWD, the workforce division experienced the majority of layoffs, and within that, over half of these layoffs occurred on my small, eight-person team. These are core operational roles. Additionally, it is disheartening that every individual who was laid off on the workforce side was either black, brown, or queer.

I understand the City is facing difficult budget decisions. But I respectfully ask that you reconsider cuts that do not achieve fiscal savings while creating operational and compliance risk.

This work matters. It matters to the communities we serve, and it matters to people like me who have built our lives here and are committed to giving back.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SF YouthWorks Departments



San Francisco YouthWorks Program

3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic
 Adult Probation - Reentry Council
 Assessor/Recorder
 Board of Supervisors - District 1
 Board of Supervisors - District 10
 Board of Supervisors - District 11
 Board of Supervisors - District 2
 Board of Supervisors - District 3
 Board of Supervisors - District 4
 Board of Supervisors - District 5
 Board of Supervisors - District 6
 Board of Supervisors - District 7
 Board of Supervisors - District 8
 Board of Supervisors - District 9
 Board of Supervisors - Office of the Clerk of the Board
 Child Support Services
 City Administrator's Office
 City and County of San Francisco - Assessment Appeals Board
 City and County of San Francisco - County Clerk
 City and County of San Francisco - Office of the Controller
 City Attorney Office
 Community Gardens Program
 Contract Development & Technical Assistance
 Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
 Department of Elections
 Department of Emergency Management - Division of Emergency Services
 Department of Environment
 Department of Police Accountability
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Department on the Status of Women
 Each 1 Teach 1 SFYW
 Ethics Commission
 First 5 San Francisco Children and Families Commission
 General Services Agency
 Grants for the Arts (ADM)
 GSA Events
 GSA Real Estate
 GSA: Convention Facilities
 GSA: Human Resources
 GSA: Mayor's Office on Disability
 GSA: Office of Labor Standards Enforcement
 GSA: Purchasing; Office of Contract Administration
 GSA: Real Estate Division
 Hope SF
 Lifeframes Inc: A Living Library

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
 Mayor's Office of Communications
 Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
 Office of Early Childcare
 Office of Economic and Workforce Development
 Office Of Small Business
 Office of the City Administrator-Fleet Management Division
 Planning Department-Administration/Operations
 Police Department_Payroll Department
 Port of San Francisco
 Public Defender's Office
 San Francisco Adult Protective Services
 San Francisco Animal Care and Control
 San Francisco County Transportation Authority-Transportation
 San Francisco Department of Building Inspection
 San Francisco Department of Human Resources
 San Francisco Department of Public Health
 San Francisco Department of Public Works
 San Francisco Department of Technology
 San Francisco District Attorney Office
 San Francisco Employees' Retirement System
 San Francisco Fire Department
 San Francisco Human Rights Commission
 San Francisco Human Services Agency
 San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
 San Francisco Police Department - Administration
 San Francisco Public Library
 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
 San Francisco Public Works
 San Francisco Recreation and Park
 San Francisco Redevelopment
 San Francisco Rent Board
 San Francisco Unified School District
 San Francisco Youth Commission
 San Francisco Zoo & Gardens
 SF Arts Commission - Program Management
 SF City & County Real Estate Division
 SF Department of the Environment
 SFO Internship Program
 Sheriff's Department
 GSA The Moscone Center
 Treasurer/ Tax Collector
 UCSF Family and Community Medicine
 VA Medical Center



Introducing San Francisco youth to careers in the City's government since 1997!



Program Description

The San Francisco YouthWorks (SFYW) program was established in 1997 by Mayor Willie L. Brown to respond to the need for expanded, career-focused work experience opportunities for youth. SFYW was created to immerse rising high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates into careers in the city's workforce.

Pre-employment training: SFYW participants receive a comprehensive program orientation as well as training on workplace culture, expectations, and communication. In addition, workplace mentors attend an orientation during which they have an opportunity to learn from the successful practices of other mentors.

Summer Internship – During the summer, 250 youth engage in a seven-week paid internship and complete a Career Exploration Project (CEP) through which they research a career of interest. Each youth presents their CEP during a three-day conference during which participants also self-select career workshops focused on topics such as financial literacy, law, human resources, firefighting, technology, and many more career options.

School-Year Internship – During the school-year, 150 youth engage in a 26-week paid internship as well as career preparation and life skills training, including topics such as Money Management (Budgeting), Effective Workplace Communication, Networking, Job Seeking (Resume/Cover Letter, Interview Prep), Financial Literacy, Career Exploration, Housing, College Scholarships/Financial Aid, and Public Speaking.

Skills Development: All SFYW participants receive training on both workplace competencies and skills development. Examples of workplace competencies include teamwork, adaptability, problem solving, conflict resolution, and time management. Examples of workplace skills development include computer programming, data analysis, marketing, search engine optimization (SEO), and customer service.

Individualized Support: YW Employment Coordinators provide one-on-one support as needed to assist with acquiring required work documents, on-site individualized progress visits, and, when necessary, supplemental workplace training.

Youth Leadership Team: Each program cycle, five high school participants are selected to serve on the Youth Leadership Team, providing support in program planning, workshop facilitation, and administrative tasks.

YouthWorks Alumni Testimonials

"SF YouthWorks gave me the skills and confidence to be a thoughtful team player. With mentor support, I learned to lead discussions, communicate clearly, and engage others—both as a first-year intern and Youth Leader in Training. The program sparked my interest in Business Administration and was key to my admission to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley."



Evelyn Ramirez

Evelyn later worked at JCYC, interned with SF Recreation and Parks' Greenager Program, and will join Ernst & Young as a tax accounting intern in Summer 2025. Evelyn shared, "SF YouthWorks gave me a space where I felt heard. It helped me grow, seek out purpose, and become who I am today."



Zakiya Percy

SF YouthWorks alumni Zakiya Percy shared that she faced major hardships as a youth when she was forced to drop out of school "due to being unexpectedly left on my own by her parents." With the support of MYEEP's Lesette Gray, Zakiya re-enrolled in school and applied for the SF YouthWorks program. During her internship, she worked at City Hall and was eventually offered a position as one of the program's youth leaders.

While living in a homeless shelter, Zakiya eventually graduated from high school and never forgot that it was the SF YouthWorks team of Jerome Anderson, Larry Berry, Linda Rosa and Camille Richardson who was there to celebrate her graduation.

Zakiya went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science, a Master's degree in Transportation Engineering, and is a year away from earning a PhD in Computational Data Science Engineering. Currently, she is an airline pilot, certified flight instructor, and serves as the Coordinator for the Exploration Aerospace Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals. Zakiya shared, "To this day, I am always grateful for the experience and mentorship."

Ava participated in the San Francisco YouthWorks program in 2019 when she interned at the SF Department of the Environment. The following year she served as a SFYW Youth Leadership In Training intern and then took on the role of a Project Coordinator for JCYC's Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program. Ava shared, "YouthWorks played a huge role in preparing me for my professional and academic journey. Through the program, I gained essential skills such as communication, teamwork, professionalism, and time management, which have helped me succeed in different work environments."



Ava Clark

Ava also added, "the SF YouthWorks experience gave me confidence in a professional setting and a deeper understanding of how impactful nonprofit work can be. Currently, I am attending City College of San Francisco, majoring in Administration of Justice, with the goal of pursuing a career in law."



April 15th, 2026

Dear Mayor Lurie and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the current and future participants of SF YouthWorks, we are asking you all to reject the proposed \$2 million budget cut to this important program.

SF Youthworks has supported us beyond providing a job. They've also helped us with basics such as our resume, cover letter, exploring future careers, college, and more. Youthworks helped a lot with basic expenses like clothes, paying for laundry, etc. It would not make sense at all to cut that large amount of funds to a program that has done nothing but support youth finances and education.

Sometimes all we need is an opportunity and due to the job market being hard some decide to rely on bad things for money. This program has helped many of us get back on our feet. We absolutely loved our relationships with our mentors. This program helped us build the path to the people we are today.

Youthworks has also given us the skills to explore what we want to do with our lives and to become leaders. We think it's so important for youth to have this program because it can provide opportunities and guidance that will give young people purpose and the tools to succeed. Especially in this labor market where it is even harder for youth to get a job, this program is especially important and necessary. One of the most important things we've learned is how to communicate professionally. For example, I've improved a lot in writing emails, asking questions when unsure, and speaking up during meetings. We also learned how to manage our time better, especially balancing school, work, and other commitments. Keeping track of deadlines and prioritizing tasks has become a skill we'll continue to use in the future.

Because of this program, we now have a better understanding of what it means to be part of a professional environment and developed skills such as responsibility, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. I also feel more prepared for future jobs and opportunities. We have all benefitted from SF YouthWorks and respectfully ask that you allow other youth to have these experiences and gain the same valuable skills.

Sincerely,



Sebastian Millan
SF YouthWorks Youth Leader
in Training

Samantha Hill
SF YouthWorks Youth Leader
in Training

Ivette Galicia
SF YouthWorks Youth Leader
in Training

Khulan Zayatugs
SF YouthWorks Youth Leader
in Training



SAVE SF YOUTHWORKS



Youth are facing **the worst labor market** since the pandemic and overall youth unemployment is at its highest level since 2016

The proposed 2026/2027 funding **cut of \$2 million** (total budget \$2.4 million) disproportionately impacts a program which has successfully provided critical SF city department internships since 1997

Since its inception, SFYW has provided

10,000+

San Francisco youth with career-focused internship in city government

SFYW has already received close to

1,000



applications for the Summer of 2026

90%

of interns would recommend their internship to a fellow student

Research has proven that youth employment is one of **the most successful** public safety strategies, reduces crime, and actually saves taxpayers money

The city's budget deficit should not be balanced on the backs of youth who need work experience opportunities

COMMUNITY SIGN-ON LETTER

In Support of Marianne Thompson

50 Signatures Collected • April 15–20, 2026

The following members of the San Francisco small business and civic community have signed on in recognition of Marianne Thompson's extraordinary contributions and in support of her continued impact on this city.

#	Signatory	Statement
1	Lavani Wright Entrepreneur/Owner Wright's Delights	<i>"Marianne has been instrumental in elevating San Francisco's small business community through her work with the S.F. Office of Small Business."</i>
2	Jessie Sunday Head of Development Coven	<i>"An amazing convener and connector, she is a powerful asset and necessary to this work!"</i>
3	Lei Lei Mahoney Partnerships & Programming Collective Impact	<i>"Dedicated connector, strong support and voice for small businesses and passionate about the city of San Francisco."</i>
4	Zeila Schappelle Owner Brigadeiro Sprinkles	<i>"Amazing events organizer. Truly supports women in small business."</i>
5	Gavin Escolar Owner The Chaga Company	<i>"Yes on above statement — in full support of Marianne Thompson."</i>
6	LaToya McInnis Entrepreneur & Designer COCOACENTRIC	<i>"Marianne has been a true champion for small businesses in San Francisco—creating space for brands like mine to grow and thrive. This isn't just a loss for one person—it's a shift for an entire ecosystem she's helped nurture. We're deeply grateful for you, Marianne."</i>
7	Nicole Williams Founder Belle Noire	<i>"Marianne has been an exceptional supporter of businesses like mine, consistently creating access to resources and opportunities that have made a real difference."</i>
8	Christina Choi CEO and Small Business Owner Christina Choi Cosmetics	<i>"Marianne has always done a fantastic job supporting small businesses, including our own, for the City Hall pop-ups."</i>
9	Michelle Pusateri Founder Nana Joes Granola	<i>"Marianne was instrumental in our growth and an incredible champion of small businesses. Every interaction I had with her was warm, professional, and impactful. I hope her next chapter brings even greater impact to those around her, and we can't wait to see what she does next."</i>
10	Caryl Brandes Owner Caryl B	<i>"ALWAYS working to help and advance small businesses' success."</i>

11	Jazmine Wilson Owner What The Shuck SF	<i>“Marianne has only been a guiding light since I started — informing and including me in city events as a vendor, opening doors I didn’t know existed.”</i>
12	Yuchun Cheng Founder S for Sparkle	<i>“Marianne’s leadership has been helping small micro businesses like mine to connect with local organizations with event opportunities.”</i>
13	Janki Shah Founder Hippie Chai	<i>“Marianne has been very helpful and supportive in the past two years since we started operating. Through her we got various workshops, pop-ups, and connections.”</i>
14	Sherry Lam Designer Sherry’s Palette	<i>“Marianne has been a great lead in supporting small businesses such as my own and consequently for the larger community in San Francisco.”</i>
15	Lynnet Spiegel Small Business Owner Jeffrey’s Natural Pet Foods	<i>“She has always been there to help guide me through some pretty hard times. We need her. She is a good one. This is an outrage.”</i>
16	Maryann Milburn Owner Fog City Jewelry	<i>“Marianne Thompson gave me one of my first opportunities to showcase my jewelry at San Francisco City Hall and has continued to be a champion for my business ever since.”</i>
17	Marilyn Harrison Director, Retail Marketing Helpers Community Inc	<i>“Marianne provided us with opportunities to sell our art at pop-ups with other local SF small businesses, which helped build income and community connections.”</i>
18	Alex Goretsky Owner and General Manager Caffe La Stazione	<i>“Marianne has connected our small business with large corporate buyers in San Francisco, helping us get our name out there and grow our customer base significantly.”</i>
19	Darnel Tasker Artist / Coach / Business Owner Digglesworth Productions	<i>“She gave me the space to let people know about my business and to grow it where it is today.”</i>
20	Lake Taylor Owner Billie Marie Goods	<i>“Marianne has helped me find business opportunities in SF and been the biggest support to me and my business since I moved here.”</i>
21	Aruna Lee Owner Volcano Kimchi	<i>“Marianne supports and connects small businesses through pop-ups and events, so having someone to reach out to means a great deal to businesses like mine.”</i>
22	Andrea Ramirez Small Business Owner Muchachi	<i>“Marianne is always reaching out and creating connections for my business. We need her to keep creating these opportunities for us.”</i>
23	Patricia Torres Owner Hairy Ear Prints	<i>“Marianne has had a meaningful impact on Hairy Ear Prints by actively connecting us with valuable opportunities across San Francisco.”</i>
24	Rolando Tirado	

	<i>Small Business Manager</i> San Francisco Chamber of Commerce	<i>“Marianne has been a crucial pillar to the small business community, spearheading partnerships and strategies that led to economic growth and resilience.”</i>
25	Stephanie Fine Sasse <i>Founder & Director</i> The Plenary, Co.	<i>“I’ve heard nothing but wonderful things about her and her work across the community. I expect this would be a huge loss for a community she has given so much to.”</i>
26	Sylvia Hackman <i>Owner</i> Krysllee Skin Care Line	<i>“Having the 49 Shop and Dine has brought new people to my business and helped Krysllee Skin Care Line gain the confidence to propel forward.”</i>
27	Aaron Hurst <i>CEO</i> Chamber of Connection	<i>“Marianne was my primary contact for opening a chapter in SF and was a champion who helped connect me with a dozen stakeholders across the city.”</i>
28	David Dower <i>Executive Director</i> Club Fugazi Experiences	<i>“Marianne has been a constant, and cheerful, advocate and process navigator for us as we’ve tried to build and sustain the Club Fugazi experience.”</i>
29	Colton Heward-Mills <i>Co-Founder</i> Build IRL	<i>“We feel lucky to have met Marianne — she has been a kind, knowledgeable and effective supporter.”</i>
30	Leah Jachimowicz Coffee n Cream Press	<i>“Marianne Thompson has been an integral part in expanding and developing my letterpress printing stationery business for the past several years.”</i>
31	Kristin Malotke <i>Small Business Owner</i> Panacea Apothecary	<i>“She has helped me to grow my business through organizing events that have resulted in customers that repeatedly buy items from my store.”</i>
32	Wendy Lieu <i>CEO & Chief Chocolatier</i> Socola Chocolatier	<i>“Marianne has consistently reached out to support small businesses and does a great job organizing the twice annual City Hall pop-up events.”</i>
33	Karen Chaw <i>Owner and Manager</i> The Daisy Refillery	<i>“Marianne has helped open so many doors for my business thanks to the programs she has put on and invited me to!”</i>
34	Lynn Vandenberg <i>Owner</i> Vandenberg Enterprises	<i>“The best organizer and head of the shows promoted by the Office of Small Business. These were ones held twice a year at SF City Hall. I find this news dismaying and incomprehensible.”</i>
35	Julie Flynn <i>Principal</i> Street Plans	<i>“I have loved working with Marianne over the years. Her ability to craft partnerships with a huge range of diverse partners to yield real community benefit is remarkable.”</i>
36	Patricia Le <i>Local Small Business Owner</i> PATO	<i>“Through organizing several pop-ups for small businesses over the years, Marianne has truly helped my business grow and gain visibility.”</i>
37	Anita Huang	<i>“Marianne has been the champion of small business and makes</i>

	<p><i>Chief of Staff</i> San Francisco Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p><i>herself ready whenever there is an inquiry (big or small) — she is irreplaceable.”</i></p>
38	<p>Jennifer Clifford <i>Owner</i> Jennifer Clifford's Adventures in Collage</p>	<p>“Marianne has helped my business grow by creating meaningful opportunities like the City Hall pop-ups and fostering real connections across the SF small business community.”</p>
39	<p>Jaclyn Hughes <i>Owner & Candlemaker</i> Ember And Fog</p>	<p>“I'm a small business owner in San Francisco, and Marianne has included me in the Small Business Popups at City Hall for the past several years — it has been invaluable.”</p>
40	<p>Liz Cahill <i>Executive Director</i> Decentered Arts</p>	<p>“Marianne has the institutional knowledge to create real change and has been a solid partner to the SF ecosystem. It would seem short-sighted to lose that.”</p>
41	<p>Louise Garbarino <i>Owner</i> SF Street Artists / 'GiveFleece A Chance'</p>	<p>“Marianne has made a significant impact supporting small businesses, artists, and community events! We need her! Please reconsider.”</p>
42	<p>Molly Martell <i>Founder</i> Mojo Bakes! SF</p>	<p>“She's the best advocate for small businesses — our voice is heard thanks to her tireless work.”</p>
43	<p>Maggie Joyce <i>Handmade Artist</i> SF Street Artist Program</p>	<p>“Her organizing of events helped artists like me reach new audiences and sustain our craft.”</p>
44	<p>Kinda Kayyali <i>Owner</i> Sincerely San Francisco</p>	<p>“Marianne consistently supports my small local business and makes me feel like part of the SF community.”</p>
45	<p>Maximillian Rainey <i>Founder & CEO</i> Borderless</p>	<p>“Clearing the pathway for support, integration, collaboration, exposure.”</p>
46	<p>Frances Chang <i>Owner / Designer</i> WENWEN Designs</p>	<p>“Helping our business grow and making sales by organizing events over the years.”</p>
47	<p>Solange Bonilla <i>Administrator</i> SF Housing Authority</p>	<p>“Marianne has been instrumental in helping me grow my business through her well-organized events, consistent support, and genuine care for the community.”</p>
48	<p>Gina Shi <i>Founder</i> Munchrooms</p>	<p>“Marianne has been instrumental in opening doors for munchrooms by enabling us to participate in City Hall events at no cost, which has been transformative for our growth.”</p>
49	<p>Phuong Mai <i>Owner</i> Perfectly Seasoned</p>	<p>“Marianne has looked out for my business and offered me great opportunities to showcase our product to a bigger audience.”</p>
50	<p>Michael Seiler <i>Founder</i> Collective Impact</p>	<p>“Marianne is SF's Super Connector. She knows everyone, and opens doors for all passionate leaders who want to make a positive impact in this city.”</p>

From: [Darius Banks](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: URGENT: Public Comment - Veteran Displacement & Failure of DV Protections at Edwin M. Lee Apartments (April 22 Meeting)
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:10:36 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee,
Please include this statement in the official record for the Wednesday, April 22, 2026, meeting regarding the Human Services Agency and Department of Disability and Aging Services budgets.

My name is Darius Ramon Banks. I am a 52-year-old veteran and a 6-year resident of the Edwin M. Lee Apartments (1150 3rd Street). I am currently displaced in the Tenderloin because I was illegally evicted from a building specifically dedicated to ending veteran homelessness.

I am writing to oppose the \$10.5 million in proposed cuts to the HSA and legal CBOs for the following reasons:

Failure of the Legal Safety Net: When I was targeted for an illegal eviction, I sought help from both the EDC and JDC; both were at capacity. I have been forced to act as my own litigation attorney from a shelter bed, navigating technical and human errors that have stalled my day in court.

Illegal Pretext & Victim Blaming: My landlord was served a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) two weeks before my eviction. They knowingly ignored California Civil Code § 1946.7 and CCP § 1161.3, using the illegal presence of my abuser as a pretext for "nuisance."

Administrative Failure: At a building named after Mayor Edwin Lee—a site intended to be a sanctuary for veterans—I was "victim-blamed" for an abuser's actions. Because I had no counsel to voice these protections in February, a judge accepted the landlord's narrative.

My Demand:

I am currently filing a Regular Motion to Vacate with an Order Shortening Time to fix this. I urge this committee to restore funding to the legal services that were too full to help me. It is a disgrace that a veteran can be pushed into the streets from the Edwin M. Lee Apartments for being the victim of a crime.

Sincerely,

Darius Ramon Banks

Veteran & San Francisco Resident