

File #150382
Received in
Committee
5/20/15
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San Francisco Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priorities for FY's 2015-16 and 2016-17

Presentation to the BOS Budget & Finance Committee
Wednesday, May 20, 2015



Priority #1: Lower San Francisco's Legal Voting Age to Sixteen Years of Age

- Robust voter participation is at the core of a healthy democracy
- The US has poor voter turnout rates compared to other established democracies, and this is also true in San Francisco
- We have a diminishing number of youth and families in San Francisco at the same time as we face economic and ecological challenges that will require young people's leadership to solve
- We need all hands on deck. We need young people to begin developing their civic leadership and participation now, not later.
- In January 2015, YC passed a resolution urging for the extension of voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in municipal and school district elections.
- This built on previous resolution passed by YC and BOS in 2005
- Supervisors introduced a charter amendment in March 2015

Priority #1 (Voting Age) Updates & Research:

We know this is a second look issue. Our research shows:

- Voting is habitual. The earlier someone casts their first vote, the more likely they are to become a lifelong voter
- Age 18 is a challenging year to begin voting habits, but age 16 allows young people to cast their first vote in a community they know and care about
- When given the chance, 16 and 17 year olds do vote in high numbers
- 16 and 17 year olds have developed the ability to make responsible voting decisions and understand politics
- 16 and 17 year olds can and do vote independently from their parents
- 16 and 17 year old voting increases voter turnout among parents, as well as peers 18+

Priority #1 (Voting Age) Continued:

- Young people accrue adult civic responsibilities beginning at age 16
- 16 and 17 year old voting is already underway in Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway, the UK, two MD cities, and the Chicago 2014 primaries
- Young San Franciscans are already demonstrating their civic leadership--and benefitting the rest of us!
- The proposal is cost effective, as reported by Department of Elections.
- This is a national and statewide conversation: a proposed state constitutional amendment co-authored by Senator Leno would lower the voting age for primary elections

Priority #1 (Voting Age) Recommendations:

San Francisco has the opportunity to build on its reputation of innovation and commitment to participatory democracy and to invest in voter turnout over the long term by being the first major US city to lower the municipal voting age to 16.

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to propose to voters a charter amendment lowering San Francisco's voting age for municipal and school district elections to age 16.

Priority #2: Offer Grants Covering Application Fees for San Francisco DACA Applicants

Background

- San Francisco has roughly 30,000 undocumented immigrants, 5,000 of them being between the ages of 14-24. These children face barriers in employment, scholarships, loans, and government services.
- Obama Administration passed DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) which defers removal action for undocumented youth.
- In 2012, of 1.2 million eligible for DACA, only about 600,000 have signed up.
- Fees associated with the program cause significant barriers and prevent undocumented youth (many under the poverty line) from receiving services.

Priority #2 (DACA) Updates:

Updates:

- DACA convener meeting revealed most effective method for aiding DACA enrollment: Two scholarship programs, both internship oriented along with additional funding for DACA DREAM SF.
- Collaboration with SFUSD's Student Advisory Council on a survey focusing on the needs of immigrant students in order to identify needed resources from SFUSD, the City, and non-profits. Data will be used to better advertise services and internship opportunities.

Priority #2 (DACA) Recommendations:

- Provide additional funding and offer grants to San Francisco's DACA applicants who face barriers paying application fees
- Expand the number of slots in OCEIA's DreamSF Fellowship program.
- Support the Mayor's proposed \$10 million in total funding over 2 years to support SF's immigrant community.

Priority #3: Ensure Equitable Access to Neighborhood Parks with a Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis

Background:

- In October 2014, there was an incident surrounding permitted play at Mission Playground which had historically been a pick-up soccer field until renovations and reservation policy changes
- On March 5th, the BOS' Neighborhood, Services, and Safety committee heard the Outdoor Children Bill of Rights. Public comment contained concerns surrounding staffing, extended lighting, park monitors, and general access and safety for children and youth
- The Youth Commission recommended reassessment of "adult permitted play", extended lighting hours, full time staff and monitors, and language accessibility

Priority #3 (Park Equity) Recommendations:

- YC urges BOS to consider the recommendations made during the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights hearing, including park safety and staffing, language access, teen access, and extended lighting when reviewing the RPD budget
- YC urges the creation of a Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis for all San Francisco parks and fields, studying accessibility, safety, use patterns, and service performance. *Factors an Equity Analysis could consider include the:*
 - Safety and staffing needs of parks
 - Ability for youth in a particular neighborhood to access parks and fields in other parts of the city via rides from parents or league-based play
 - Number of youth in need of after-school activities
 - Open hours by facility-type and reservation status (i.e. drop-in based versus reservation-based; youth leagues versus adult use)
 - Neighborhoods with high concentrations of youth, people of color, low-income families, immigrant families, non-English-speaking residents, and/or disabled people

Priority #4: Ensure Police Officers are Trained on Effectively Interacting with Youth

Background & Updates:

- Youth Commissioners have worked with SFPD to implement proposed changes to improve youth-police relations since a joint police- youth- commission hearing in March 2012
- This year, we saw the approval of a SFPD-SFUSD MOU to clarify the role of police on school campuses
- YC is continuing to work with SFPD to develop a comprehensive youth training for police officers and feel this is timely
- We have a demonstration scheduled with Chief Suhr May 29th

Priority #4 (Youth Training for Police) Recommendations:

The Youth Commission is calling upon the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support and urge the police department to implement this critical and timely new training for all police officers, with a priority for sergeants and patrol officers that address topics and policing tactics unique to juveniles. This training should offer practical communication skills and best practices for working with youth that are grounded in developmental psychology. Topics that should be included are: adolescent cognitive development, mental health issues among youth, recognizing and interacting with traumatized youth, and disproportionate police contact with youth of color. The 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.

Priority # 5: Ensure Regular Review and Analysis of Outcomes of SFPD Referrals to Child Protective Services

Background:

- After a collaborative process between domestic violence advocates and the Police Department, the Police Commission passed domestic violence protocol DGO 6.09 in October 2014
- Youth Commissioners spoke at a Police Commission and met with police commissioners, SFPD, and FCS staff regarding concerns on CPS referral components of DGO 6.09
- Concerns stem from whether FCS is best system of care for meeting needs of youth exposed to trauma in situations not involving criminal abuse or neglect; Disproportionate negative outcomes for families of color in child welfare system and impact that could have on relations with police department

Priority #5 (CPS Referrals) Recommendations:

- We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge SFPD and HSA to enact clear data collection and sharing capacities through the establishment of an MOU between CPS and SFPD in order to assess outcomes for SFPD referrals to CPS for intended results and disproportionate referrals for investigation in cases involving families of color
- YC urges periodic (six month) reviews of the outcomes of DGO 6.09 to assess its effect on communities of color and whether youth are being well served
- YC urges collaboration with CBHS to identify the best referrals for youth

YC thanks the Police Commission for committing to scheduling a review in coming months.

Priority #6: Support a Timely and Youth-Inclusive Implementation of the Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee and the Our Children Our Families Council

Background:

- Throughout 2014, commissioners facilitated many community conversations with youth about the reauthorization of the Children's Fund.
- In November 2014, the Children's Fund passed with 73% of the vote.
- Charter amendment called for establishment two oversight committees, the OCOF (city-wide) and OAC (oversees DCYF).

Priority # 6 (Children's Fund Trailing Legislation) Updates:

Updates:

- BOS passed the OAC legislation with three youth seats (two will be recommended to Mayor by YC)
- Our outreach application process has now closed; we have received 5 strong applications and will be making recommendations
- The OCOF Council legislation passed with three of the four youth seats the Youth Commission recommended
- Thank you for your support!

Priority # 6 (Children's Fund Trailing Legislation) Recommendations:

Recommendations:

- We continue to urge for the inclusion of youth voice on these two bodies and look forward to supporting the youth serving in these seats
- We urge for the timely appointment of these youth seats so that the bodies can get begin operations with youth voice at the center

Priority #7: Promote and Maintain Family Unity and Connection Between Youth and Their Incarcerated Parent

- A DCYF Community Needs Assessment found 17,993 SF children and youth had an incarcerated parent in 2010
- Working in partnership with Project WHAT and Supervisor Cohen, we helped hold a hearing in NSS in June 2014
- In Fall 2014, the Police Commission passed DGO 7.04 for handling the arrest of a parent and created a roll call training video which is now being implemented at SFPD
- Sheriff Mirkarimi has been working with the Youth Commission and Project WHAT to implement new policies to aid in maintaining family unity while parents are at county jail

Priority #7 (Children of Incarcerated Parents) Recommendations:


- We urge that the independent parent visiting age in county jails be lowered to 16 while still maintaining the ability to have contact visits. The Sheriff is scheduled to present to the YC on a draft of this new policy June 1st
- We also urge the creation of an online inmate locator
- Lastly, we urge the BOS to investigate ways the City can provide more affordable telecommunications services for parents at county jail and fund visitation programs for youth with parents in state prisons

Priority #8: Engage Youth in the Development of Community Benefit Agreements

- The YC Immigration and Employment Committee began working with various tech companies to investigate how Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) could aid in youth employment
- In June 2015, the Youth Commission and 6 CBA companies will hold a youth town hall with the theme of connection and empowerment
- Formal recommendations on youth inclusion in CBA's will be forthcoming after that event

Priority #9: Declare 2015 as the Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth

Background:

- Obama Administration =  Federal goal to end homelessness for youth by 2015
- The Youth Commission and the Larkin Street YAB partnership

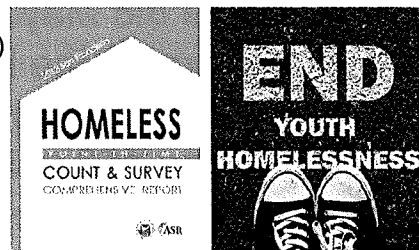
San Francisco Numbers:

- 1,902 homeless children and transitional age youth (TAY) were counted (SF 2013 Homeless Point-in-Time Count)
- 2,357 homeless school-aged youth enrolled in the district on January 24, 2013 (SFUSD)
- 3,450 youth received services from Larkin Street between July 2012 and July 2013 (Larkin Street)
- There are only about 350 beds available for homeless youth in San Francisco on a given night.

Priority #9 (Year of Homeless Youth) Recommendations:

IMAGINE...

- Being approached by an exploiter or recruited by a pimp within the first 48 hours being on the street (1/3)
- Experiencing harassment from local law enforcement (66%)
- Trading sex, drugs, or both for a place to sleep (21%)
- Being physically attacked or assaulted (1/4)
- Being a victim of sexual exploitation (1/10)
- Using methamphetamines (1/5) or using heroin (1/10)
- Wanting to further your education (72%)



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- BOS to declare 2015 the Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth
- BOS to set aside funding in the 2015-16 budget to support residential on-site counseling services, intensive case management, substance abuse treatment and outpatient medical health crisis services, education re-engagement programs and job placement programs

Priority #10: Fully Fund the Plan for Affordable Housing for Transitional Age Youth

Background:

- In San Francisco, there are between 5,000 and 8,000 disconnected transitional age youth
- Mayor's Office of Housing TAY Housing workgroup created a TAY Housing Plan in 2007 calling for the creation of 400 dedicated TAY housing units by 2015
- In 2014, the Youth Commission hosted a youth town hall on housing and affordability which was attended by over 60 youth and advocates, including TAY
- An evaluation that measures the quality and effectiveness of TAY housing and support services is due July/August of 2015

Priority #10 (TAY Housing) Recommendations:

Recommendations:

- We urge the Mayor's Office of Housing, DPH, and HSA to implement the housing recommendations of the TAY 2014-2016 priorities document, including identifying the remaining 158 units in the 2015 TAY housing plan
- We also urge the analysis of housing outcomes for TAY youth who might not be eligible for TAY housing programs

Priority #11: Support a Democratic and Accessible City College of San Francisco

Recent Updates:

- In January 2014, Superior Court Judge Karnow granted an injunction blocking the commission's decision to revoke CCSF's accreditation, but let the decision stand. CCSF is now on restoration status with ACCJC
- In February 2015, California Community Colleges Chancellor appointed a new special trustee amid student calls for reinstatement of the elected BOT. Harris confirmed the elected trustees will resume full authority around July 1, 2015

Priority #11 (CCSF) Recommendations:

- We thank this Board for their attention to this matter, and especially for the concern over the closure of the Civic Center campus as well as the recent Public Safety & Neighborhood Services committee hearing on CCSF
- We urge the City to ensure the existence of a City College that is dedicated to serving the needs of diverse students and to take all possible measures to support the restoration of democratic governance and robust and meaningful student leadership at the College
- We further urge the City to continue to explore means of supporting the college, especially by investigating ways to reduce and reverse drop in enrollment
- Finally, we urge the City to begin considering a plan for CCSF and the City's response in the case of another decision by the ACCJC to revoke the college's accreditation in two years

Priority #12: Investigate and Address the Effects of the Anti-Abortion Banners Annually Displayed on Market Street

Background:

- In January 2015, banners displaying “Abortion Hurts Women” were displayed on Market St. lamp posts for the second time in two years
- In 2014, the Mayor and BOS introduced legislation protecting women’s access to health facilities and BOS passed a resolution condemning the banners
- The neighborhoods in which they are displayed are home to youth, children and families, as well as the highest rates of low weight birth and ER visits for pregnancy
- The messages may be especially harmful to young women

Priority #12 (Anti-Abortion Banners) Recommendations:

- We urge the BOS to hold a public hearing addressing the impacts of the anti-abortion messages and the City’s efforts to educate young people about their reproductive rights and health
- We also urge the BOS and Mayor to prioritize public messaging efforts that honor reproductive choice and public health during the annual anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* when the banners are on display
- Finally we urge the BOS to explore ways to amend the public works code to ensure messages containing public health information displayed on city lampposts to be scientifically-verifiable. We acknowledge there may be constitutional issues, and would like to inquire if there are precedents in other city legislation, ie, about sugar sweetened beverage advertising

Priority #13: Expand Implementation of 12N Cultural Competency Training and Efforts to Track LGBTQ Youth in City Services

Background:

- Adopted in June 1999, chapter 12N of the City's admin code mandates training regarding LGBTQ youth competency for all City employees who work with youth and all youth-serving City contractors who receive \$50,000 or more in City funds
- In 2013, there was a 12N hearing and subsequent 2014 working groups with city departments hosted by YC and Supervisor Avalos
- DPH is piloting a 12N training video produced in partnership with YC and HRC as well as collecting information on sexual orientation and gender identity during client intakes

Priority #13 (12N) Recommendations:

- Firstly, we'd like to thank members of the BOS for attention to this matter as well as key youth serving city departments for participating in working group meetings
- 12N remains an unfunded mandate. We urge the BOS to identify and dedicate funding sources to support implementation of 12N competency trainings
- Additionally, we urge for the collection of information on sexual orientation and gender identity in intake forms across youth-serving city departments beginning in the upcoming fiscal year

Thank you very much!

Questions? Comments?

For more information: www.sfgov.org/yc

