

From: [Lucero Herrera](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Children First Charter Amendment
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:00:55 AM

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

My name is Lucero Herrera She/Her Self - Determination Advocate at the Young Women Freedom Center also a mother of a 7-year-old Salvadorean son.

I do not support this, This amendment does not speak on Children of Color, Immigrant Families. In the name of “collaboration” - This eliminates the only collaborative body mandated to create a single plan for children and youth, the Our Children Our Families Council.

In the name of “community voice” - This eliminates the strongest community voice, the Service Providers Working Group.

This charter amendment is complex. It adds a new layer of bureaucracy, eliminates existing planning and oversight bodies imposes new outcome mandates and allow for reduced funding of children’s services.

--

**In community Salute,
Lucero Herrera**

[She/Her/Hers](#)

[Self - Determination Coordinator](#)

Young Women Freedom Center

832 Folsom Street Suite 700, San Francisco 94107

lucero@youngwomenfree.org

o:415.703.8800 Ext 207

c:510.755.9321



"I want to read and write so I can stop being the shadow of other people. I work and working I transform the world. As flowers they are nature, As decorations they are culture. No longer part of the mass, but one of the people" - Paulo Freire



Monday, January 24, 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We're writing to express our opposition to the Mayor's two-part Children's Initiative and to request that you vote No on them. They do not put children's needs first, and instead they put politics before children.

Through our Accountability, Consistency, and Transparency (ACT) Now campaign, Coleman Advocates has been calling for a new partnership MOU between the city and the school district for over a year. We need a new partnership, not new oversight, but a new partnership between the city and the school district. More specifically, San Francisco children need the city to enter into a partnership that includes giving additional funds to the school district as well as one that brings more city services to SFUSD families. The Mayor's proposed initiative does the opposite, threatening to withhold millions of dollars of funds.

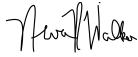
This is not a time to finger point. This is a time for the city and the school district to maturely collaborate and slowly build a structure of partnership-based innovation that truly leads the country in systems change and equity, putting the needs of San Francisco children first and certainly above a political blame game.

Though many SFUSD parents across our city have been incredibly frustrated by SFUSD's offerings during the pandemic, our families know that the systems change required for high quality education and equity must include the city stepping up and collaborating with the district and in particular expanding funding for schools and the district. The challenges San Francisco faces in providing high quality education to all students has never been an issue of restructuring the local government to better supervise itself, even across departments. What has been true before the pandemic, through the past two years, and now is that San Francisco must innovate to forge new collaborations and a sharing of responsibility such that SFUSD (1) receives increased financial support from the city and (2) offers increased accountability and transparency to families and students, guiding a citywide effort – led by families, not the Mayor – to bring equity and high-quality education to all students.

Additionally, the Mayor's proposed oversight commission would have no seats at the table that would represent parents' or students' voices in the decision-making process of the allocation of funds that directly impacts them. What's also concerning is the proposed initiative's lack of transparency around the modification process for expending funds as well as what the certification of compliance will entail. Although the Mayor has stated that the goal of the initiative is to create transparency and accountability, it obscures students' and parents' voices from the process and punishes them instead of making elected officials more effective and accountable.

Again, the need is for parents and students to have increased control and participation in systems change and for the school district to have support and partnership from the city rooted in new financial supports. San Francisco children will not benefit from an increase in bureaucracy of government supervising the government, and we at Coleman Advocates believe the Mayor's proposed Children's Initiative(s) will in fact harm the children of San Francisco. We advise and request you to vote No.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neva Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neva Walker
Executive Director, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth

From: [Dinky Manek Enty](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: My Public Comment for today's Rules Committee meeting - agenda item #4: Update on Children First Charter Amendment
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:49:08 AM

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

Please see below for my public comment. Thank you.

Good afternoon everyone,

My name is Dinky Manek Enty and I am the Deputy Director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice and a Co-Chair of the Juvenile Justice Providers Association. Today I am speaking on behalf of both bodies.

We really appreciate and recognize that we all - to include our Mayor and our Supervisors - want to keep improving our ability to support SF's children and families and are here to support a robust community process to figure out how to make that happen. In doing so though, we need to fully utilize the tools we already have in the charter and that are available to the government to foster collaboration, a unified vision, accountability and diverse authentic community engagement. We need to do this before we amend, eliminate or replicate the current charter.

The new charter's proposed super agency would be ruled by a commission of political appointees, moving power away from parents, youth, and other experts. With power over the Children's Baseline Budget, this new commission will have veto control over budget decisions throughout 15 city departments – with the ability to change decisions of the community advisory bodies, experts, and other commissions. This would weaken the community's voice. Let's do the opposite - let's show our community, parents, youth, and experts how important their voice truly is.

San Francisco has a national reputation for innovative programs and policies, and a tradition of equity and inclusiveness. We'd like to see this happen again - let's come together to build on what we have and do the hard and complex work of implementing the current statutory mandates.

Thank you so much.

-Dinky

--

Dinky Manek Enty, MPA
Deputy Director
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ)
www.cjcj.org

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail is not a secured data transmission for Protected

Health Information (PHI) as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and it is the responsibility of all parties involved to take all reasonable actions to protect this message from non-authorized disclosure. This e-mail is intended for the recipient only. If you receive this e-mail in error, you should notify the sender and destroy the e-mail immediately. Disclosure of the information contained herein could subject the discloser to civil or criminal penalties under state and federal privacy laws.

From: [Tatum O'Sullivan](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Item #4 of Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Monday 12/24/2021
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:55:11 AM

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

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for my submission for public comment at today's Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Meeting regarding item #4: the update to the Children First Charter Amendment.

"Good Afternoon Supervisors, other city representatives, and other members of the public. My name is Tatum O'Sullivan and I'm a youth advocate with the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, as well as a member of the Juvenile Justice Provider's Association. I'd like to reiterate previously heard concerns about and opposition against the proposed amendment to the Children First Charter. The measure was brought straight to the Board of Supervisors without any previous community/stakeholder involvement. In a city where the children's movement has historically been marked by inclusiveness, grassroots movement, and a shared sense of community, this precedent must be adhered to, and community stakeholders--as well as the SF youth and their families must be included in decision-making that will directly affect them.

Additionally, some problems which the amendment aims to address are *already addressed* in the existing charter. Some solutions to employ rather than amending the charter include quality staff and appointment, better connections to the community, improved grant-making, and building trust among on-profits, department leaders, and consumers. We must fully use the tools already in the charter and available to government to foster collaboration, a unified vision, accountability and diverse authentic community engagement. Do this BEFORE we eliminate or replicate them. Thank you!"

Warm Regards,

-Tatum

--

Tatum O'Sullivan
Case Developer
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail is not a secured data transmission for Protected Health Information (PHI) as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and it is the responsibility of all parties involved to take all reasonable actions to protect this message from non-authorized disclosure. This e-mail is intended for the recipient only. If you receive this e-mail in error, you should notify the sender and destroy the e-mail immediately. Disclosure of the information contained herein could subject the discloser to civil or criminal penalties under state and federal privacy laws.

From: [Doug Styles](#)
To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Item #4 Children's First Charter Amendment
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:09:41 AM

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

I suggest stopping the Children's First Charter Amendment process until public participation can inform the process and the initiative. San Francisco has a robust group of youth providers with deep interest in improving services and the lives of young people. The public should not be kept out of the planning process. There are already systems in place that, if activated, would address many of the current challenges. Please build public participation into the proposed Children First Charter Amendment.

Peace,
Doug

Douglas Styles, PsyD
Executive Director

(pronouns: he/him/his)

Huckleberry Youth Programs
3450 Geary Blvd., Suite 107
San Francisco, CA 94118
dstyles@huckleberryyouth.org
Phone: 415.633.6843
www.huckleberryyouth.org



Established in 1967