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POLICY & BUDGET PRIORITIES

2015-16 & 2016-17

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SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

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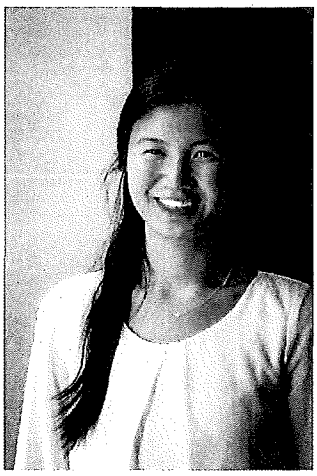
Introductory Letter From the Chair



19 years ago, two optimistic newlyweds decided it was time to move from their small village in China to a place of new opportunity—a place where their children could have a bright future ahead of them. They had only one city in mind: San Francisco. For my parents, this "Golden Mountain" represented a place filled with economic and social resources, the pinnacle of the American Dream. The city continues to be such a place for many diverse communities today.

But despite all of this, residents of San Francisco are finding it increasingly difficult to stay in the very city they have placed all their hopes and dreams in. Families and children are leaving. Between 2000-2010, the city lost 5,278 people younger than 18. Youth struggle with accessing open spaces, finding housing in safe neighborhoods, and finding jobs—to name a few challenges. Our future political leaders, business founders, breakthrough researchers, and social advocates no longer find the City a suitable place for the important, but often overlooked, work of growing up.

Pursuant to SEC 4.125 of the City Charter, the Youth Commission is tasked with advising the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, and identifying the unmet needs of youth in the city. It has been an honor working with my peers this year. Each Commissioner demonstrates not only a passion for a particular issue or community, but more importantly, a drive to address it head on. Supporting immigrant families, improving youth-police relations, and increasing youth access to facilities have been a few of our committee priorities, along with the Commission-wide, continuous priority of bridging the gap between youth and government. Commissioners have spent countless hours in the community, Board Chamber, and in our second home: Room 345, all to create a better environment for the youth of our city.

On behalf of youth ages 12-24 in San Francisco, we present the following thirteen Budget and Policy Priorities for the Board of Supervisors' consideration for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 fiscal years—as a culmination of our work during the 2014-2015 term. We believe that implementation of these priorities is crucial in ensuring equity for the youth of our city. We look forward to supporting San Francisco in continuing to be a leader in economic, social, and democratic progress. Thank you for your careful review and consideration of our work.

"Youths' eyes are fresh, perspectives untainted, and sense of justice pure." -Allen Lu, 2015

Sincerely,

Michel Li
Chair, San Francisco Youth Commission
Appointed by Mayor Edwin Lee

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YOUTH COMMISSION POLICY & BUDGET PRIORITIES

2015-16 & 2016-17

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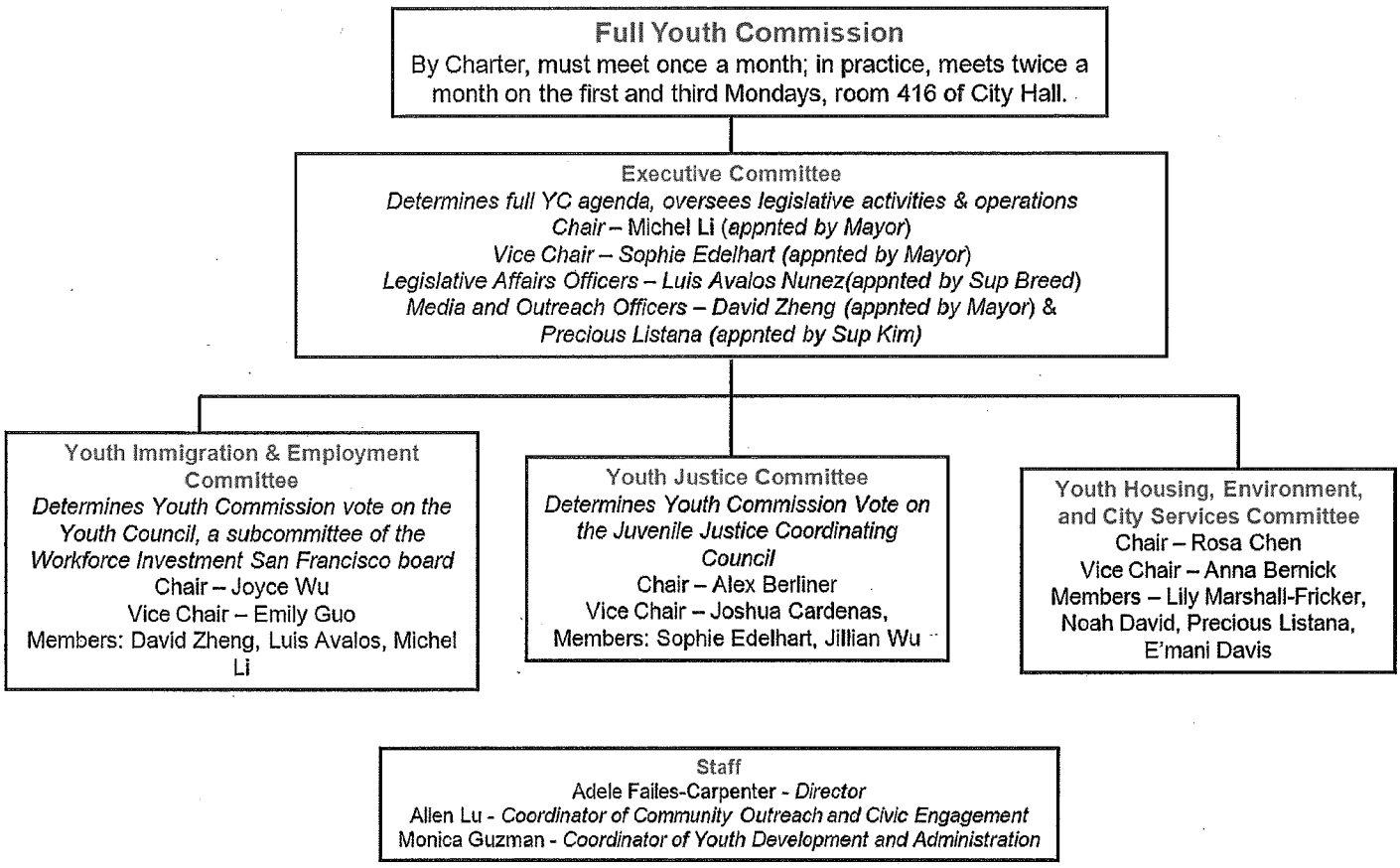

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PRIORITY 1: LOWER SAN FRANCISCO'S LEGAL VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Urging the Mayor and San Francisco Board of Supervisors to invest in voter turnout and the civic and political development of young people by supporting a charter amendment lowering San Francisco's legal voting age to sixteen

BACKGROUND

Robust voter participation is at the core of a healthy democracy. However, the United States enjoys a far lower voter turnout rates than other established democracies, only 60% during presidential elections and 40% during midterm elections, as compared to 80% in Austria, Sweden, and Italy and 90% in Australia, Belgium, and Chile.[1] The 2014 elections showed the lowest voter turnout since World War II with the lowest numbers of all amongst voters under age 30. San Francisco is no exception to these trends. Our exciting November 2014 ballot won turnout from only 53% of registered voters. San Francisco's November 2013 ballot saw participation from less than 30% of registered voters.[2]

Democratic participation and political enfranchisement strengthen our democracy. Indeed, voters demonstrated their commitment to the ideals of democratic representation and participation when they voted to create the San Francisco Youth Commission over nineteen years ago. Since that time, the San Francisco Youth Commission has advised the City on the unmet needs of youth. We are currently witnessing an ongoing diminishment of the share of our City's population made up of youth and families. At the same time, we are staring down problems that were not of young people's making, but which we will be required to solve—from climate issues like water scarcity, to economic threats, like the rising costs of college tuition and housing. It is the Youth Commission's firm contention that we need all hands on deck to face these challenges—that means we need young people to begin developing their civic leadership and participation now—not later.

In January 2015, the San Francisco Youth Commission passed a resolution urging for the extension of voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in municipal and school district elections. The 2015 resolution followed upon previous resolutions adopted in 2005 by both the San Francisco Youth Commission[3] and the San

[1] Fair Vote, The Center for Voting and Democracy, Voter Turnout from http://www.fairvote.org/research-and-analysis/voter-turnout/.

[2] San Francisco Department of Elections, Historical Voter Turnout from http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1670.

[3] 5 San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 0405–AL013. Resolution Urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to Recommend to State Legislators That They Allow Local Choice, For Which City or County Could Permit Persons 16 years of Age or Older to Vote In City or County Elections adopted June 6, 2005. Retrieved at http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=51216

Francisco Board of Supervisors[4] supporting the expansion of suffrage to citizens of 16 years and older in city and county elections. The Youth Commission's 2015 resolution was passed after months of research on how extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds will boost our democracy and increase voter turnout over the long term.

Extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds is an important investment in their civic and political development. Extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds will mean more people can cast their first vote in a community where they have roots, are enrolled in school, where their parents are voters, and where they may be more interested in voting than those who are just two years older.

Research shows that voting is habitual, and that once a young person casts their first vote, they will continue voting. Additionally, the earlier someone starts voting, the more likely they are to be a lifelong voter. Many young people encounter major transitions at age 18, which can make it a challenging year to establish new voting habits. As a result, voter turnout among eligible voters under 30 is lower than any other age group. By contrast, when given the chance to vote, 16 and 17 year olds register and turn out at greater rates than older voters. This has been confirmed in other countries that allow teens to vote (Norway Germany, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, and Austria) as well as in U.S. cities that have extended voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds like Takoma Park, Maryland and the Chicago 2014 primaries.

16 and 17 year olds are absolutely capable of understanding politics. Research shows that 16-year-olds' political knowledge is about the same as 21-year-olds' and quite close to the average for all adults. Neurologically, 16 and 17 year olds have developed the ability to logically analyze information and make responsible and informed voting choices. Research consistently indicates 16-17 year-olds make voting decisions based on reasoned consideration of their own and larger interests in a fashion similar to older voters. The high school classroom is the perfect place to engage and inform young people about the local municipal issues that impact their lives. Expanding the vote to 16 and 17 year olds will be an opportunity to promote an even deeper engagement with the civics curriculum required in our local schools.

We also know that 16 and 17 year olds are capable of forming independent ideas. In the Scottish independence referendum, 44% of teens voted differently than their parents. If 16 and 17 year olds are given the right to vote, families will engage in dialogue that will lead to a more informed and engaged electorate overall. In fact, evidence suggests there is a "trickle up" effect from youth civic participation. When 16 and 17 year olds engage in civics, conversations about politics and civic life are brought home, with a positive effect on voter turnout for parents and family members of all ages. This "trickle up" also extends to the roommates and peers of those same young voters after they reach age 18.

Age sixteen holds a special significance in our

[4] Board of Supervisor File No. 051215 – Urging State Legislators to Permit Persons 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in City and County Elections, Passed on July 21, 2005. Retrieved at https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=2583879&GUID=7B2703EE-19B3-4EE2-8775-94A4BEB38779.

society. Upon turning 16, young people can drive, work without limitations on hours, pay taxes, take classes on government in school, and are frequently subject to adult criminal charges. Despite the civic responsibilities that accrue at age 16, 16 and 17 year olds are not able to vote. Given the current age demographics in San Francisco where the average age of the electorate has risen from 44.2 in 1980 to 45.8 and is projected to 47.6 by 2025, expanding the electorate is an essential step in counterbalancing this aging and ensure the interests of younger generations are protected. Many families have left San Francisco due to the increase in home prices and inability to afford the cost of living in the city. Between 2000 and 2013, San Francisco lost about 8,000 school age youth and now has the lowest percentage of kids of any major U.S. city. The young people impacted by these trends are best positioned to identify solutions, and their political enfranchisement is a vital step toward combating family flight.

The city has seen fit to make investments in the leadership and civic engagement of young people through DCYF's Youth Leadership and Organizing programs, the Youth Empowerment Fund, and the city's annual Youth Advocacy Day, among other initiatives. Thousands of SFUSD high school students have cast votes in mock elections and ballot measures through the Youth Vote program, gaining exposure to the electoral process and civic norms and practices. In October 2014, 100 young people voluntarily attended a Young Voters Forum designed to educate youth on the various issues on the November ballot. A majority of the attendees at the Young Voters Forum were under 18, yet they came to reflect on how the ballot initiatives might impact their lives and those of their peers and family. The non-partisan event was put on by the San Francisco Youth Commission, TAYSF, San Francisco Youth Warriors, Youth Leadership Institute, Peer Resources, the Student Advisory Council, and Coleman Advocates. Staff from the San Francisco Department of Elections was on hand at the Young Voters Forum to register new voters and recruit young people to work the polls on Election Day.

These and many other efforts by engaged local youth leaders have been very fruitful, with the city benefiting from several policy and legislative campaigns initiated and led by young people all around the city, including most recently an ordinance amending the health code and establishing limitations for the granting of new tobacco sales permits[5], which was finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014.

Numerous countries—Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom—have extended the right to vote to 16 year olds in national, state, and local elections or are considering doing so. 16 and 17 year old voting has begun in two Maryland cities and the Lowell, Massachusetts city council is petitioning the state legislature to

[5] San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Ordinance No. 259-14, Ordinance amending the Health Code by adding density, proximity, and sales establishment limitations on the granting of new tobacco sales permits, and renumbering all sections in Article 19H; amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code by increasing the annual license and application fees; and making environmental finding, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014. Accessed December 12, 2014. Retrieved from http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/ordinances14/o0259-14.pdf.

allow them to lower the city's voting age. In February of this year, Senator Kevin Mullin introduced a state constitutional amendment, co-authored by Senator Mark Leno, that would allow 17 year olds to vote in primary elections if they will turn 18 before the date of the general election. Senator Mullin stated the constitutional amendment "would increase political engagement and voter turnout, potentially increasing the likelihood of the individual to continue voting for years to come."

There is a national conversation building about the political enfranchisement of young people, particularly in response to some state's enactment of laws designed to severely limit communities' of color and young people's voting rights. San Francisco has an opportunity to build on its reputation of innovation and commitment to participatory democracy by being the first major city to extend voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds.

Updates

On March 17, 2014, Supervisor Avalos, along with his co-sponsors Supervisors Kim, Campos, and Mar, introduced a charter amendment allowing citizens of 16 years of age and older to register and vote in municipal and school district elections held in the City and County of San Francisco.

On March 16, 2015 dozens of young people came out to a rally in support of the legislation. Since its introduction, the legislation has been the source of national news including the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and Bloomberg News. Teachers, school administrators, parent groups, elected officials, and young people have all reached out to express their support.

Discussions with the Director of the Department of Elections (DOE) have confirmed that DOE is prepared to register 16 and 17 year old voters and prepare a special ballot with the department's current staff allocations. The estimated cost associated with each new voter is approximately $8.50 per election. A 2/5 estimate of the 2010 census figure on the number of 15-19 year olds in San Francisco amounts to approximately 13,000 16 and 17 year olds in the city and county of San Francisco. We do not yet have estimates of how many of these young people are citizens or how many would register to vote, if given the chance. However, initial cost projections provided by the Department of Elections indicate that preparing ballots for 5,000 new voters would cost $42,278,24 per election. Assuming a nearly 100% turnout rate, 10,000 ballots would cost $84,556.48 per election—indeed, a small price to pay for a big investment in our democracy.

Youth commissioners have begun discussions with SFUSD administration and members of the Board of Education about how the school district might be able to assist with voter registration and residency verification efforts, as well as how the civics and social studies curricula in SFUSD classrooms can promote the informed and responsible exercise of voting rights.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to put to voters the question of whether to lower San Francisco's voting age to age 16 by supporting the charter amendment lowering the City's voting age to

16 years.

Moreover, youth commissioners urge members of the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee to engage with young people active in this effort, and to familiarize themselves with the growing body of research that shows the ethical basis and practical utility of extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in order to strengthen our democracy.

Finally, the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge San Francisco's elected state representatives – State Senator Mark Leno, Assembly members Philip Ting and David Chiu – to prepare legislation that would provide for a state constitutional referendum to reduce the voting age to sixteen for all state elections.

PRIORITY 2: OFFER GRANTS COVERING APPLICATION FEES FOR SAN FRANCISCO DACA APPLICANTS

Urging the Mayor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to Provide Application Fee Grants for Eligible San Francisco DACA Applicants

BACKGROUND

In San Francisco, roughly 30,000 of San Francisco's 809,000 residents are undocumented immigrants,[6] and over 5,000 of San Francisco's undocumented residents are youth ages 14-24.[7] Undocumented youth have historically faced barriers in accessing employment, scholarships, loans, state and federal services, and other opportunities.

On June 15, 2012 the Obama administration, via the Department of Homeland Security, announced the implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which began on August 15, 2012.[8] DACA is a program that allows for the discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion in addition to providing potential eligibility for employment authorization for qualified individuals as of June 15, 2012.[9] The DACA program offers "deferred action" to undocumented youth who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements as indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website.[10]

In 2012, about 1.2 million immigrants were eligible for DACA, and only about 600,000 have signed up so far. Of 539,774 DACA eligible youth in California, only 157,182 (29.1%) have applied for the program.[11] The DACA program has been quite successful in providing employment and financial opportunities; for example, approximately 61% of DACA recipients surveyed have obtained a

[6] Begin, Brent. "Illegal immigrants leaving San Francisco for cheaper pastures." San Francisco Examiner. Last modified July 21, 2011. Accessed April 13, 2014. http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/illegal-immigrants-leaving-san-francisco-for-cheaper-pastures/Content?oid=2178492.

[7] Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. "SF Summer Jobs Program Will Include Opportunities for Undocumented Youth." Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. Last modified May 28, 2013. Accessed April 13, 2014. http://colemanadvocates.org/blog/sf-summer-jobs-program-will-include-opportunities-for-undocumented-youth/.

[8] US Department of Homeland Security. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Who Can Be Considered?" US Department of Homeland Security. Last modified August 15, 2012. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.dhs.gov/blog/2012/08/15/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-who-can-be-considered.

[9] US Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Frequently Asked Questions." US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions.

[10] Ibid

[11] Center for American Progress. "Undocumented No More." Center for American Progress. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/DACAReportCC-2-1.pdf.

new job since receiving DACA, over 50% have opened their first bank account, and 38% have obtained their first credit card.[12]

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced an Executive Action to protect unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. from deportation, expanding DACA and introducing a new program, Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). Under the President's new expanded plan, DACA recipients would renew their statuses and work authorization every three years instead of two.[13] In addition, Immigrants who entered the U.S. before January 1, 2010, and who have at least one child who is a U.S. citizen or a green-card holder, are also protected under this executive action and may be eligible for DAPA. Because DACA and DAPA were executive actions that were not associated with a congressional approval for funding, the need to cover legal support, outreach, administrative fees, and other costs associated with applying for the programs has largely fallen to states, municipalities, and immigrants themselves.

These actions go a long way in supporting our immigrant families, however, there are costs associated with applying for DACA. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services charges an application fee of $465 to apply and reapply, a $380 fee for the I-765 Form and an additional $85 in biometric service fees.[14] These fees impose a significant barrier to eligible applicants; for example, according to Migration Policy Institute's one year DACA mark study, 35% of eligible DACA applicants are under 100% of the Federal Poverty level, with 66% under 199% of the Federal Poverty level.[15] 60.5% of all DACA applications received from August 2012 to July 2013 were in the months of August, September, October, and November (the first four months of the program) and were up for re-application this year,[16] increasing the need for financial aid at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The financial need is even more apparent in San Francisco, a city consistently ranked as one of the most expensive cities in the United States, currently second only to New York City.[17]

UPDATES

On April 13, 2015 the Youth Commission co-hosted a DACA convener meeting alongside Supervisor Yee's office, wherein immigrant-youth serving organizations and legal providers were invited to come give feedback on the best way to administrate the provision of DACA application fee grants. There were

[12] Gonzales, Roberto G., and Veronica Terriquez. "How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those Who are Now DACAmented." Immigration Policy Center. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented.

[13] Ibid

[14] United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "I-765, Application for Employment Authorization." United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/i-765

[15] Migration Policy Institute. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the One-Year Mark." Migration Policy Institude. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/DACA2013-FINAL.pdf.

[16] United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Accessed November 24, 2014. http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca-13-8-15.pdf.

[17] Expatistan. "Expatistan's Cost of Living World Map." Expatistan. Accessed May 12, 2014. http://www.expatistan.com/cost-of-living/index.

two primary strategies for meeting the needs of DACA-eligible and DACA-renewing residents that community members recommended at this meeting:

- Providing an intensive internship in which participants earns salary amounts in the form of a stipend to cover application fees. The internship would largely consist of outreaching about DACA and other city/state resources for immigrant youth and families.
- DACA applicants complete a project or training involving outreach to other immigrant youth about DACA and workforce development opportunities.

The Youth Commission's Immigration and Employment Committee worked closely with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council during the 2015-16 school term to create a survey focusing on the needs of immigrant students. The goal of the survey is to identify outstanding needs in the immigrant student population. The survey is designed to investigate immigrant students' experiences with SFUSD, the City, and other non-profit organizations regarding youth services and programs available to them, including DACA, AB540, and AB 60. Once the data from the survey is collected and analyzed, youth commissioners will provide the Board of Supervisors with analysis on how services and programs can be best advertised. This will provide valuable information for consideration in the development of DACA outreach projects that might be linked to the provision of the application fee grants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following President Barack Obama's Executive Action, Mayor Edwin Lee immediately authorized $500,000 in new funding for the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to provide citywide DACA and DAPA outreach, education, fraud prevention and language assistance.[18] The Youth Commission commends Mayor Lee's commitment to funding the DreamSF Initiative through 2019. Youth commissioners recommend expanding the number of slots on OCEIA's DreamSF Fellowship program which offers DACA-approved youth the opportunity to serve the city's immigrant communities through professional experience and training.

Reducing financial barriers for undocumented youth to apply for DACA is still an unmet need in San Francisco. The Youth Commission urges the City to provide additional funding and offer application fee grants to San Francisco's DACA applicants who face barriers paying applicable application fee(s) in applying for the DACA program. Ensuring DACA-eligible San Franciscans are able to apply will allow DACA-eligible San Franciscans to make use of the full range of opportunities the City endeavors to provide its families and young people, including our youth employment and workforce development programs, educational opportunities, and others.

While the new and expanded DACA and DAPA are being temporarily held up in court, the Youth Commission looks forward to working with the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Civic Engagement &

[18] Mayor Lee Announces Funding to Strengthen San Francisco's Immigration Action. <http://sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=846&recordid=735&returnURL=%2Findex.aspx>

Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), and community organizations serving undocumented youth to ensure that San Francisco is ready to fully support DACA-eligible youth once the injunction to remove the DACA programs is settled.

UPDATES

On May 7, 2015, Mayor Lee announced in a press release $10 million in total budget funding over two years to support San Francisco's immigrant community.[19] The funding is dedicated to additional legal services, financial education, a new labor center, and multiple initiatives like DreamSF, SF Pathways to Citizenship, and Obama's DACA program. Mayor Lee specifically committed $1 million in funding for OCEIA to strengthen its efforts to support and implement President Obama's immigration relief efforts. To extend the reach and complement OCEIA's initiatives, the Mayor announced funding for a fee assistance pilot for immigrant youth and families eligible for the DACA program and Pathways to Citizenship. The Youth Commission is pleased to hear this announcement, and is excited to see this translate into application fee grants for eligible DACA applicant.

[19] Mayor Lee Announces Increased Funding to Strengthen San Francisco's immigrant Community. <http://sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=846&recordid=735&returnURL=%2Findex.aspx>

PRIORITY 3: ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS WITH A RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY ANALYSIS

Ensure safe and equitable access to facilities, programs, and recreation services for youth throughout the city of San Francisco.

BACKGROUND

According to Section 4.124 of the City Charter, the Youth Commission is charged with: "Examin[ing] existing...recreational programs for children and youth; Develop[ing] and propos[ing] plans that support or improve such programs;" And: "Submit[ting] recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors about...recreational activities for teenagers...and changes in city and county regulations that are necessary to improve the...recreational advantages of children and youth."[20]

The mission of the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) of San Francisco is "to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of the diverse community of San Francisco."[21] Today, RPD has more than 4,100 acres of park land under its jurisdiction, including Sharp Park in Pacifica and Camp Mather Family Camp in the High Sierras.[22] Its 220 parks provide over 440 programs serving 50,000 applicants, offering 16,000 slots for youth in their summer programs,[23] and offering over $800K in summer scholarships and $1.5 million 50%, 75%, and 100% program scholarships,[24] with more youth participants than ever before.[25] The people of San Francisco have long supported the parks of our city, passing the 2012 $195 million Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park bond and previous measures,[26] establishing the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund,[27] and organizing Park Clean-Up days.

During the recent recession, the RPD faced severe cut resulting in lay-offs recreation directors and recreation staff positions in 2010. During this time, RPD also began renting and leasing out recently renovated clubhouses, as well as pursuing other revenue-generating

[20] San Francisco Charter Section 4.124, Youth Commission - Purpose and Duties. http://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sf_charter_-_youth_commission_0.pdf.

[21] San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Mission Statement from http://sfrecpark.org/about/ .

[22] San Francisco Recreation and Park, Community Report Fiscal Year 2011-12 from http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/rpd-community-report-2011-12.pdf .

[23] Ibid.

[24] Ibid.

[25] Presentation by the Recreation and Park Department to the Full Youth Commission on February 2, 2014 from http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=51586

[26] San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhoods Parks Bond from http://sfrecpark.org/park-improvements/2012-bond.

[27] San Francisco Charter Section 16.107, Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund from http://charter.sanfranciscocode.org/XVI/16.107.

strategies including fee-based rentals.[28] These changes did not go unnoticed by community members, who raised concerns at the time, especially among youth in the South of Market and Castro neighborhoods.

Since the economy has improved, and following the passage of the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park bond, the Recreation and Parks Department has been able to begin renovations of several parks and playgrounds. However, not all community concerns regarding the fee- and reservation-based services within RPD have been ameliorated.

In the fall of 2014, there was an incident involving neighborhood youth and adult tech workers at the then recently renovated Mission Playground. Adults had paid for and reserved the soccer field for permitted play on a field that had historically been used as a pick-up soccer field by local youth before renovations. When the adults arrived to play at their scheduled reservation time, youth were using the field. The youth did not know about the reservation system, which had recently been put into place, and were hesitant to leave the field. Ultimately, they all played together but this is an example of an incident that could have been avoided had more analysis been done before changing reservation policies in certain neighborhood playgrounds.

At the October 16, 2014 Recreation and Park Commission Special meeting community members came out to air concerns following the Mission Playground incident.[29] General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department, Phil Ginsberg, expressed that the Mission Playground incident serves as an example of the city's lack of and limited play space for youth and residents in addition to the city's larger issues concerning gentrification and displacement.[30] Youth and representatives from Mission community organizations negotiated with Mr. Ginsberg, the department, and the Recreation and Park Commission to make changes to field scheduling at Mission Playground, including the elimination of adult permitted play, improvements in language access, and extended lighting hours at the Mission Playground soccer field. The incident brought to light that some of the revenue-generating strategies that have been pursued in recent years have further restricted already-limited open space access for young people, and that long-time community members and park users need to be treated as key stakeholders in foregoing renovation plans and associated policy changes in the City's parks.

On March 5, 2015 at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services hearing on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights[31], public comments from youth included concerns over the need for more park monitors to improve park safety; extended lighting hours, increased non-reservation-based playfield access, and a general commitment to teen access in our parks.

The San Francisco Youth Commission believes that one of the most vital public services and

[28] San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Indoor Facilities from http://sfrecpark.org/permits-and-reservations/indoor-facilities.

[29] Recreation and Park Commission, Minutes October 16, 2014 from http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/101614-minutes.pdf.

[30] Ibid.

[31] San Francisco Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights – October 18, 2014, Resolution No. 81-15 from https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=3683493&GUID=CA2D7EC4-430A-4C85-9B72-EB7AA76946F9.

violence prevention services that RPD offers is providing reliably safe public park spaces for young people to spend their time in during out-of-school hours. However, park safety during daytime, evening, and summertime hours, continues to be a major accessibility issue. In March of this year, two teens were shot inside of a car parked at Crocker-Amazon playground. In June 2014, Herz playground was the site of a fatal daytime shooting witnessed by 60 children, including the son of the victim. These incidences of violence limit the ability for youth to safely play at these playgrounds.

Many cities and San Francisco agencies have been successful in conducted equity analyses to help guide their citywide and departmental policy and planning decisions. For example, King County, Washington developed a Strategic Innovation Priority Plan after identifying persistent inequities by race and geography in public systems. They extended this analysis to parks and open space as evaluated by race, ethnicity, income, immigration status, and zip code.[32] Additionally, in 2014, SFMTA announced that they would be conducting a Service Equity report to ensure equity in service performance across neighborhoods and to ensure that transit-dependent customers such as riders from low-income and no-vehicle households are prioritized in the department's Strategic Plan.[33] SFMTA's Equity Strategy is a neighborhood-based approached to improving those routes most critical to low-income communities of color.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the creation of a Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis for all San Francisco parks and fields, studying accessibility, safety, and service performance especially for neighborhoods with large numbers of low-income residents and residents of color. The equity analysis would be particularly useful in evaluating the impact of changes associated with park renovations, especially reservation policies. The equity analysis could be used to monitor progress and improve services to these communities over time, and could be reported on to the Board of Supervisors during the Recreation and Parks department annual budget presentation.

Factors an Equity Analysis could consider include the:

- Relative safety of parks
- Ability for youth in a particular neighborhood to access parks and fields in other part 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)

[32] Advancing Equity and Social Justice through development of a Strategic Innovation Priority Plan and Executive department actions from http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/policies/executive/administrationaeo/aco92aeo.aspx.

[33] MUNI Service Equity Strategy Policy Presentation to SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council on May 1, 2014 from http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/agendaitems/5-1-14%20Equity%20Strategy%20ppt.pdf.

- Neighborhoods with high concentrations of youth, people of color, low-income families, immigrant families, non-English-speaking residents, and/or disabled people

Such an equity analysis would be valuable in guiding investment of the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park bond and the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund, ensuring diverse groups of stakeholders are engaged in renovation planning, and highlight needs and opportunities for innovative programs like neighborhood-fields or neighborhood-based sports league programs, extended lighting, and other initiatives.

The San Francisco Youth Commission also urges the Board of Supervisors to consider the comments and recommendations made during the March 5, 2015 Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights hearing since it is the main purveyor of outdoor experiences for youth in the city. The recommendations the youth made at the hearing were for the city to: bring back consistent park staff for safety and supervision, conduct more outreach regarding scholarships, adhere to Language Access regulations at parks and playgrounds, extend lighting hours at fields, outdoor courts and recreational yards, and review reservation policies for parks where youth sport leagues frequent and/ where man youth pick-up and drop-in games happen.

PRIORITY 4: ENSURE POLICE OFFICERS ARE TRAINED ON EFFECTIVELY INTERACTING WITH YOUTH

Ensure that the Police Department follow-through on its commitment to provide its officers comprehensive training on interacting with youth that is skill-based, scenario-based, and focused on de-escalation

BACKGROUND

For much of its 17 year history, the Youth Commission has focused its attention on the arena of youth-police interactions--from sponsoring two Citywide hearings in June of 2000 regarding the adopted state Constitutional Amendment and statute on Juvenile Crime known as Proposition 21; to putting on a town hall in December 2002 that drew over 200 youth, many of whom spoke about their experiences with police in schools; to working with the Police Department (SFPD) and the Office of Citizen Complaints staff to develop revisions adopted by the Police Commission in September 2008 to the SFPD's protocol on youth detention, arrest, and interrogation codified in Department General Order (DGO) 7.01; to holding the first ever joint Youth- and Police Commission on March 7, 2012 where over 70 speakers shared their testimony.

At many points in its history, the public--including youth, service providers, teachers, and parents--have offered Youth Commissioners their riveting testimony of personal experiences with police officers. At the March 2012 joint hearing, community members discussed the positive and life-changing work SFPD is involved in each day. There were also numerous stories of miscommunication and seemingly unnecessary escalations between police officers and youth. Gathering all of the input and research provided, Youth Commissioners shared a formal memo with Chief Suhr and the Police Commission on March 19, 2012 recommending policy changes to improve relations with youth.

These recommendations included: 1) Providing a new training for all police officers addressing topics and policing tactics unique to juveniles; 2) Ensure widespread and regular distribution of SFPD Juvenile Know Your Rights pamphlets through all City agencies, the school district, and social media; and 3) Establish an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SFPD and SFUSD.

Youth Commissioners recommended and still believe that this training should:

- Include de-escalation skills and strategies for asserting authority effectively with youth.
- Incorporate scenarios of real life police-youth interactions and include youth in training components.
- Offer officers an opportunity to practice and apply their skills.
- Address the issue of racial profiling and disproportionate police contact with youth of color.
- 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, and recognizing and interacting with traumatized youth.

- Focus on policing tactics unique to juveniles, and offer a comprehensive overview of the department's policies surrounding juvenile policing outlined in the Department General Order 7.01.
- Be prioritized for sergeants and patrol officers.

We believed and still believe that efforts towards increasing police training on youth development, adolescent cognitive development, de-escalation, and positively interacting with youth will help to create a productive and consistent dialogue between youth and police in addressing youth-culturally competent issues within law enforcement.

At the April 4, 2012 meeting of the Police Commission, Chief Suhr indicated his desire to implement all three of these recommendations, and to stay in communication with the Youth Commission about implementation. Chief Suhr articulated the following timelines: SFPD would prepare a draft of its new training module with the characteristics described above in 90 days (i.e., July , 2012) and roll out the training for incoming Police Academy classes and Advanced Officer training within six months (i.e., September 2012).

Recent Updates

When we talk about trust between police and members of the community, it is our contention that young people should be at the center of the discussion. In 2014, we saw increased national attention on the issues of racial profiling, police-community relations, and indeed, youth-police relations with the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. What was made clear through these discussions in San Francisco and beyond, is that tensions between community members and police departments across the country are strained to the breaking point and are in dire need of dedicated efforts to enhance mutual understanding, trust, transparency, and accountability.

In 2014, there were a number of strides towards the ends of improving youth-police relations in San Francisco. The Police Commission and SFUSD Board of Education mutually passed a memorandum of understanding outlining the role of police on school campuses. The MOU is one of the strongest of its type in the nation, and provides clear guidelines to assist SFUSD administrators in distinguishing between school discipline issues and criminal issues which warrant a call to the police; For police, the MOU clearly defines when and how arrests should be made on school campuses and outlines several of the key provisions of DGO 7.01, the juvenile policing code, in the context of school campuses.

The police department, SFUSD, students, and community advocates have formed a MOU implementation and oversight committee which includes youth seats. We look forward to working with SFPD and SFUSD to ensure positive and meaningful collaboration between police and schools to support students in their educational goals and avoid the unnecessary criminalization of student behavior.

In 2014, the Police Commission also passed department general order 7.04 "Children of Arrested Parents" which outlines guidelines for police officers making arrests of parents, both in the presence and absence of their children. SFPD worked with youth and advocates on this policy, including youth who had witnessed their parent's arrest or even been left without a guardian after their parent's arrest. The new general order includes provisions for planning arrests when children are less likely to be in the care of their parent; making arrests outside the sight of children, when possible; inquiring about the parental status of people being placed under arrest; allowing parents to make care and custody arrangements for their child; and allowing parents to personally assure their child before they are taken into custody.

SFPD worked with Project WHAT and the Office of Citizen Complaints to create a DGO 7.04 roll call training video that includes demonstrations of the protocols using real life scenarios, as well as the voices and perspectives of youth who have witnessed their parent's arrest. On January 5, 2015, youth commissioners passed a resolution commending the Francisco Police Department, the Office of Citizen Complaints, and community partners on the establishment of the DGO 7.04 officer training.

Along with these gains, comprehensive police training on youth-police interactions remains an important outstanding need in avoiding unnecessary escalations between police and youth, and is a strong priority for the San Francisco Youth Commission. Such training has already been implemented successfully in other police departments, including Sacramento, Portland, Oregon and with school resource officers in San Diego.

In 2014, the police department confirmed they were working with a trainer to pilot an officer training on adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress. After feedback sessions, youth commissioners and youth advocates recognize an outstanding need for dedicated youth-police training that focuses on adolescent development and de-escalation, and is consistent with how police officers are trained, i.e. is skill-based and scenario-based. Recent incidents continue to underscore the need for this training to help avoid unnecessary escalation between youth and police. Youth commissioners and youth advocates are continuing to work with members of the Police Commission and Chief Suhr towards the institution of such a training.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission is calling upon the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Police Chief Suhr and the Police Commission to follow through on the youth-police training recommendations. This effort has been a long time in the making and we believe now is a critical time to make this change.

The Youth Commission is calling upon the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support and urge the police department to implement this 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 SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERRALS TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Urging the Mayor and San Francisco Board of Supervisors to ensure regular review of the outcomes for Police Department policies mandating referrals to Child Protective Services to ensure children are connected to those services most needed and to avoid racial disparities in child welfare outcomes

BACKGROUND

In October 2014, the San Francisco Police Commission passed new domestic violence protocols in SFPD Department General Order 6.09. The domestic violence protocols were the result of years of collaboration with domestic violence advocates and will strengthen approaches to responding to domestic violence in our City. At the same time, the policy left open concerns voiced by domestic violence and youth advocates[34] regarding referrals to Child Protective Services in non-arrest domestic violence cases contained in paragraph G of the general order.[35]

The police department has a policy in place in DGO 7.04 concerning contacting Family and Children Services in cases of parental arrest wherein a child is left without the care of another parent. However, the terms of paragraph G in DGO 6.09 leave open the possibility that officers would be required to contact FCS in some cases where a child is left in the care of a non-abusing parent, who may themselves be the survivor of abuse. Officers always have the ability to make arrests in cases of criminal abuse or neglect of children. Witnessing a crime or domestic violence may be traumatizing, but not rise to the standard of criminal abuse or neglect, and therefore fall outside FCS' general scope of intervention. The terms of paragraph G of DGO 6.09 include some criteria for officer referrals to CPS that are grounded in domestic violence lethality assessments, as well as at least three criteria which were not supported by domestic violence advocates, including: threats; access to drugs or alcohol; or a parent's impairment by drugs or alcohol.

The Youth Commission believes the police department's goal of ensuring its officers have resources to connect children exposed to trauma and domestic violence to support and services is commendable. The City invests in our Community Behavioral Health Service system in order to meet the needs of youth and families through a trauma-informed system of care, including a behavioral health access line

[34] Lamb, J. (2014, October 8). Police Commission to consider new rules on domestic violence calls involving children. *San Francisco Examiner*. Retrieved at: http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/ImageArchives?features=Stories&tag=Adele%20Failes-Carpenter&oid=2908582.

[35] San Francisco Police Department, (2014). *Department General Order 6.09: Domestic Violence*. Retrieved at: http://www.sf-police.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=27437.

and 24-hour child crisis line that link to comprehensive crisis services including assessment, triage, stabilization, case management, and a full spectrum of behavioral health services. FCS works diligently to support families and provide referrals to resources in the CBHS system of care, but also maintains a mandate of assessing parental fitness.

Domestic violence advocates have worked with law enforcement and human service systems for decades to develop best practices that generally advocate keeping children in the care of their non-offending parent, and establish provisions for separating child welfare and law enforcement responses to domestic violence.[36] The child welfare system has been characterized by disparities affecting families of color, including disproportionate rates of referrals for investigation, as well as in cases resulting in out-of-home placement.[37] San Francisco Family and Children Services conducts extensive staff training on differential response and strongly prioritizes avoiding out-of-home placements of children. However, despite these efforts, stigma and fear concerning CPS involvement may still persist, especially in communities of color and/or undocumented immigrant communities. The fear of losing custody of children due to 'failure to protect' may negatively impact survivors' decisions about whether to contact law enforcement to report abuse.

Family and Children Services is currently in the process of developing protocols for collaboration with law enforcement in the investigation of child welfare cases in accordance with new mandates. At the time of the police commission's adoption of DGO 6.09 individual members of the San Francisco Youth Commission spoke in public comment about the need to ensure regular review of the effects of the new CPS referral protocols for disproportionate impacts on communities of color. At that same time, police commissioners indicated a commitment to reviewing the outcomes of DGO 6.09 paragraph G six months after implementation. We thank members of the Police Commission for reaffirming their commitment to conducting that review in April 2015 when youth commissioners passed a resolution (1415-AL-11) on this issue.[38]

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department and Human Services Agency Family and Children Services Division to enact clear data-collection

[36] National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (1999). Effective Intervention In Woman Battering & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice. Retrieved at: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/ncjfcj.pdf; Details from the 2007 San Francisco demonstration site are available at: http://www.thegreenbook.info/san_fran.htm

[37] California Disproportionality Project report. (2011). Retrieved at: http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/CA_Disprop_FinalRpt.pdf See also: Disparities and Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Analysis of the Research. (2011). Retrieved at: http://www.cssp.org/publications/child-welfare/alliance/Disparities-and-Disproportionality-in-Child-Welfare_An-Analysis-of-the-Research-December-2011.pdf

[38] San Francisco Youth Commission resolution 1415-AL011, passed April 20, 2015. Retrieved at: http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=52359

and sharing capacities through the establishment of a MOU that includes provisions for collecting data on SFPD referrals to FCS including age, race, ethnicity, language, whether an arrest was made, and outcomes following referral to FCS, including: services provided and cases accepted for investigation, placement, and family reunification.

We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to conduct regular, periodic six-month reviews of the outcomes of DGO 6.09 paragraph G to assess the policy for disproportionate impacts on communities of color; and whether the intended outcomes of linking young people to needed trauma services are being met.

We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to work with Community Behavioral Health Services to identify appropriate avenues for officer referrals of children and families to the CBHS system of care.

Finally, we urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to recommit to implementing a comprehensive officer training on working effectively with youth, including de-escalation skill.

PRIORITY 6: SUPPORT A TIMELY AND YOUTH-INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE OUR CHILDREN, OUR CHILDREN OUR FAMILIES COUNCIL

Following up on the passing of the Children and Youth Fund legislation in 2014 to support and establish a youth-inclusive Our Children Our Families Council and the Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

Previously called the Children's Fund, the Children and Youth Fund is a dedicated stream of earmarked dollars for children and youth services in San Francisco. It was first approved by San Francisco voters in 1991, reinstated by the electorate in 2001, and was up for reauthorization in 2014. The Children's Fund had been the primary source of funding for programs and direct services for the more than 56,000 youth in San Francisco who are 18 years and younger.[39] As the chartered advisory body charged with the responsibility for examining existing youth programs and services, the Youth Commission sat on the Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Council and led the effort to engage San Francisco's young people in the crafting of the new legislation.

Throughout 2014, youth commissioners facilitated community conversations and discussions about the reauthorization of the Children's Fund. From these meetings, focus groups, and a Youth Town Hall in December 2013, youth commissioners heard the need for the inclusion of disconnected TAY in the services provided by the Fund; the need for the city and school district to increase their investment in children and youth services; the need for more youth voice in councils and oversight bodies whose decisions impact young people; and the need for better coordination between the city, schools, and private/non-profit sectors.[40] They translated the feedback into recommendations in the form of Resolution 1314-04[41] for consideration during the crafting of the legislation that later became Proposition C.

Proposition C passed with 73% voters' approval during the November 2014 elections.[42] With the passing of the ballot measure, the Fund was extended for 25 years, received an additional $.01 per $100 of assessed valuation of the city's property tax, and could

[39] San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. *Snapshot of DCYF's Investments, Population Served and Participation Survey Results* San Francisco: n.p., n.d. PDF. <http://www.dcyf.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=710>

[40] *Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Engagement Wiki.* N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2014. <http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/>.

[41] San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 1314-04 "Policies and Priorities for the Children's Fund," adopted April 7, 2014: <http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=15313>.

[42] City and County of San Francisco Registrar of Voters. Accessed April 13, 2015 <http://sfgov2.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/elections/ElectionsArchives/2014/Nov/Summary6.pdf>

begin serving transitional-age youth between the ages of (18-24). The measure also established the Our Children, Our Families Council (OCOF), a group chaired by the Mayor and the Superintendent. The council is tasked with helping the city, school district, and its community partners coordinate their services by creating a plan for the city to improve the condition of children and families, assessing city policies and programs, and making general recommendations every five years. Additionally, the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families' Citizen Advisory Council (DCYF CAC) was replaced by the Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC). The OAC is charged with developing recommendations for DCYF and the Fund regarding outcomes for children and youth services, approving the planning process for the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and the Services and Allocation Plan (SAP), approving DCYF's overall budget expenditures, providing evaluation of the Director of DCYF, and establishing and maintaining a Service Provider Working Group.[43]

Recommendations

After the passage of the Children and Families First Fund, the Board of Supervisors introduced trailing legislation regarding the makeup and specific responsibilities of the OCOF Council and the DCYF OAC. The Youth Commission continued to urge the Supervisors to include youth seats on these two bodies. [44]

The Youth Commission urged for at least one fourth of the OAC seats to be made up of youth; as well as for four youth seats on the OCOF council: one Youth Commissioner, one Student Advisory Council Member, one TAY youth, and one youth who is a public school student and member of a youth organization.

The Youth Commission urges for the timely appointment of youth representatives to all finally-approved youth seats on both the OAC and the OCOF council, so that both of these bodies can begin operations with youth as fully-included members. We look forward to supporting youth sitting on both of these bodies.

Updates

The ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the membership Of the Our Children; Our Families Council unanimously passed at the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 2015, and was approved by the Mayor on May 8, 2015. [45] The final legislation included all three of the recommended youth seats by the Youth Commission:[46] one youth aged 19 or under recommended to the Mayor for appointment (Seat 6) by the Student Advisory Council, one youth aged 19 or under recommended to the Mayor for appointment (Seat 8) by the Youth

[43] "Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee." N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Apr. 2015. <http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/boards/w/5f1a1e2880611dce/boards/6407>.

[44] Referral response to BOS File No. 141215. <http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=51000>

[45] BOS File 150222: Administrative Code - Membership and Functions of the Our Children, Our Families Council <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2236384&GUID=81D47AD9-02AA-4C25-9FF4-9E5CF37928A1>

[46] Motion No. 1415-AL-12: Youth Commission support for maintenance of youth representation on the Our Children, Our Families Council. <http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=52173>

Commission, and one Disconnected Transitional-aged youth (Seat 15).

The ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee, (and a Service Provider Working Group) passed at the Board of Supervisors February 3, 2015, and was approved by the Mayor February 13, 2015. The final legislation passed with three youth seats including two youth under the age of 19, and one transitional-age youth. It included provisions for the Youth Commission to make formal recommendations of youth age 19 or under for appointment by the Mayor to seats one and two. In April 2015, the Youth Commission released the 2015 Application for Youth Seats 1, 2, and 7 on the Children, Youth, and Families Oversight and Advisory Committee. We will be conducting interviews and making recommendations to the Mayor very soon.

We thank the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor for their commitment to ensuring that youth are strongly represented in these important new bodies, and for their continued guidance on investments in young people in our City.

PRIORITY 8: ENGAGE YOUTH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

Setting the precedence for youth engagement in the development of Community Benefit Agreements between the City and the private sector, and including services and programs recommended by youth in the agreements.

BACKGROUND

According to SEC. 4.124 of the City's Charter, the Youth Commission has the function of developing and proposing plans that support or improve the existing social, economic, educational and recreational programs for children and youth, and advising about available sources of governmental and private funding for youth.[47] The Youth Commission has a history of advocating the City to provide quality programs and employment opportunities for the city's youngest residents. Priority #6 of the Youth Commission's Policy & Budget Priorities for Fiscal Years 2012-2013 & 2013-2014 stressed the "Promotion of job experience and employment opportunities for San Francisco's young people by including Youth Involvement Plans when negotiating contracts with new businesses."[48] On March 12, 2012, the Youth Commission adopted Resolution 1112—AL 07 Urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations with the intent of encouraging youth involvement plans, to, at a minimum, increase the number of youth jobs and internships for the city's young people, so as to create a thriving workforce for the future of San Francisco.[49] On March 27, 2012, the Board of Supervisors adopted resolution file no.120293 Urging the Mayor and City Departments to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations.[50] The Youth Commission has also supported the Mayor around his priority to provide summer jobs for youth. The Mayor has focused on building partnerships between the city and private sector. Since the implementation of Summer Jobs+ in 2012, the Mayor has held an annual Corporate Challenge in City Hall where he calls on San Francisco's business leaders to join him in his efforts to create jobs or sponsor summer internships for youth to boost the local economy, and create meaningful employment opportunities for the city's young people that will help set them up for success.[51]

[47] Section 4.122 Youth Commission, San Francisco Charter

[48] SF Youth Commission 2012-2013 & 2013-2014 Policy and Budget Priorities <http://sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=41657 >

[49] Resolution 1112-07 Urging the Mayor and the Board to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations. < http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=41055>

[50] File No. 120293 Urging the Mayor and City Departments to Prioritize Youth Employment During Business Negotiations. < https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=2585949&GUID=4B559240-331E-400A-B8FB-F3677E393443>

[51] Mayor Lee, Leader Pelose & United Way of The Bay Area Announce San Francisco Summer Jobs+

This year, the Youth Commission's Immigration and Employment Committee was committed to addressing this priority of increasing youth engagement with businesses and youth employment opportunities, and chose to do this through Community Benefit Agreements. The Central Market & Tenderloin Area Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is a binding contract any company residing in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area whose annual payroll expense exceeds one million dollars can enter with the City Administrator in order to receive a 1.5% payroll expense tax exclusion.[52] Community Benefit Agreements may include commitments to engage in community activities and participate in workforce development opportunities in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area. Currently, there are six companies engaged in CBAs: Twitter, Zendesk, Spotify, Zoosk, Yammer, and One Kings Lane. In the past, these companies have worked with community organizations such as Black Girls Code and Vietnamese Youth Development Center, contributing to small and large projects.

The Immigration and Employment Committee researched CBAs, meeting with the City Administrator's Office as well as the liaisons from the different companies involved in CBAs. The Committee also toured Twitter, Zendesk, and Spotify to learn more about what the companies can offer to their communities and understand the potential of CBAs. During the tours, commissioners were able to ask staff questions regarding their community work and outreach, which guided their actions regarding this priority. The committee was also grateful to have had the opportunity to present to the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Central Market & Tenderloin Area, and engage with the committee members to receive their thoughts and feedback on our plans. At their meeting, youth commissioners honestly shared that none of them knows exactly the opportunities the youth of District 6 want or need, and this youth town hall is a direct way of figuring this out. They are grateful for members of the CAC for helping them with outreach of this event to youth organizations they know or work with.

Recent Updates

The Youth Town Hall, sponsored jointly by the Central Market and Tenderloin companies, will be held on June 11, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Titled "Kinetic Konnection," the theme of the event is connection and empowerment. At the daylong town hall, youth will hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops put on by the six different companies engaged in CBAs, hear from the liaisons during panel discussions, and have the opportunity to voice their own questions and opinions about how youth can become engaged in the development or implementation of the agreements. The goals of the event are twofold. We hope that the youth will leave the town hall with

Initiative to Create 5,000 Summer Jobs for San Francisco Youth. < http://www.sfmayor.org/index.aspx?page=778>

[52] San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code: Article 12-A: Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance. <http://www.sfgsa.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=9174>

a new skill, an understanding of what the companies and the organizations they work with have to offer, and knowledge about the access points in which they can give input to the needs of TL, SOMA, and Civic Center youth through the CBA process if they wanted to. On the sponsor side, we hope that the companies, Supervisor Kim, and the Youth Commission are able to have a clearer understanding of the capacities and needs of the youth participants when developing the next CBA's, and be able to provide innovative opportunities for the youth to engage in the development of CBA's if they wish. The inclusion of youth in decision-making processes related to the changes happening in their neighborhoods is necessary. The Mayor and Board of Supervisors can expect to receive a report back on the recommendations following the event.

PRIORITY 9: DECLARE 2015 AS THE YEAR OF RECOGNIZING HOMELESS YOUTH

Ensure that the city acknowledges the growth of the homeless youth population (12-24 year olds), and prioritizes the provision of housing, employment training and services through financial support.

BACKGROUND

Congress and the Obama Administration set a federal goal of ending homelessness for youth, children, and families by 2020.[53] This year, the Youth Commission collaborated with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street to bring awareness to the City of the homeless youth population in San Francisco. Larkin Street is a service provider that caters to homeless youth in San Francisco, and provides varied types of assistance. Together, we recognized despite the current investments in homeless youth in San Francisco, this growing population is often overlooked and underserved. With few services, youth have difficulty getting on the right track towards living a healthy life.

On any given day in the United States, there are between 353,000 - 503,000 youth ages 12-24 who experience homelessness,[54] with only about 4,000 youth shelter beds available across the country.[55] Each year, approximately 5,000 young people die on the streets because of illness, assault, or suicide.[56] These youth are also susceptible to incarceration. States spend $5.7 billion each year incarcerating youth for nonviolent offenses such as homelessness. 57 Locally, nearly 66 percent of surveyed homeless youth in San Francisco have experienced harassment from local law enforcement.[58]

Homeless youth are vulnerable to multiple types of harassment. One in three youth are approached by an exploiter or recruited by a pimp within the first 48 hours of being on the street.[59] LGBT youth also face homophobic and transphobic discrimination, and are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth population. As many as 40 percent of the nation's homeless youth identify as LGBT, while between 5-10 percent of the overall youth population is LGBT.[60]

[53] http://usich.gov/opening_doors/
[54] Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2013 Report On Incidence and Needs, p. 1
[55] "National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth." GLAAD. http://www.glaad.org/blog/national-campaign-youth-shelter-seeks-housing-homeless-lgbt-youth
[56] "Streetwork: Homeless Youth Facts." Safe Horizon. http://www.safehorizon.org/index/what-we-do-2/helping-youth-14/streetwork-homeless-youth-facts-220.html
[57] Bernadine Watson. Dec. 20, 2013. www.washingtonpost.com < http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2013/12/20/the-number-of-homeless-youth-is-growing-but-funding-to-help-them-is-not/>
[58] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.13
[59] Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2013 Report on Incidence and Needs p. 3
[60] "National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth." GLAAD. http://www.glaad.org/blog/national-campaign-youth-shelter-seeks-housing-homeless-lgbt-youth

Table 2: 2013 Homeless Count by Sheltered Status and Family Status

Setting	Single Adults 25 Years +	Children and Youth Under 25	Persons in Families	Total	% of Homeless Population
Unsheltered	2,633	1,649	33	4,315	58.7%
Emergency Shelter	1,187	65	374	1,626	22.1%
Transitional Housing	262	186	272	720	9.8%
Resource Centers	112	0	0	112	1.5%
Stabilization Rooms	233	2	0	235	3.2%
Subtotal: HUD-defined Homeless Persons	4,427	1,902	679	7,008	95.3%
Rehabilitation Facilities	93	0	0	93	1.3%
Jails	126	0	0	126	1.7%
Hospitals	123	0	0	123	1.7%
Total	4,769	1,902	679	7,350	

12013 Homeless Count by Sheltered Status and Family Status

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required public agencies and service providers to conduct a Point in Time count of the homeless population in their cities every odd-numbered year since 2005. Beginning in 2007, San Francisco was among the first cities to count homeless youth as a distinct population from the adult homeless population.[61] In San Francisco's 2013 Point-in-Time count, 1,902 homeless children and transitional age youth (TAY) were counted, accounting for more than one-fourth of all homeless individuals counted.62

According to the 2013 Homeless Point-in-Time Count Survey, 21 percent of homeless youth reported they had traded sex, drugs, or both for a place to sleep; one in ten homeless youth reported they had been the victim of sexual exploitation; more than one in four homeless youth have been physically attacked or assaulted; and nearly half of youth respondents reported they had been robbed or burglarized.63 Nearly one in five youth surveyed reported using methamphetamines and one in ten reported using heroin.64 A significant portion of the homeless youth population struggle with mental health and substance abuse with 41 percent reporting their mental health as "fair" or "poor" and 27 percent suffering with chronic depression and 23 percent suffering substance abuse.65 Homeless youth are in need of job and education support with 71 percent of homeless youth being unemployed at the time of the survey, 25 percent not having completed high school or obtained a GED, and 72 percent of homeless youth respondents wanting to further their education.66

The San Francisco Unified School District also counts the number of homeless youth in our public school system. They employ a definition of homelessness that includes

[61] San Francisco 2007 Homeless Youth Count < http://www.sfhsa.org/asset/ReportsDataResources/Homeless2007CountReportFinal.pdf>

[62] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.5

[63] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.12

[64] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.14

[65] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.14

[66] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.9, 16

youth living in shelters, single room occupancy hotels, transitional housing, the streets, cars, doubled up, and other inadequate accommodations in their own recordkeeping.[67] The school district estimates that there were 2,357 homeless school-aged youth enrolled in the district on January 24, 2013—up from 2,200 in January 2011.[68]

Between July 2012 and July 2013 Larkin Street provided aid to 3,450 youth, 69 a higher number of youth than those counted in the 2013 Point-In-Time Count (which found 1,902 homeless children and TAY). Over one third of Larkin Street youth have spent time in jail, and the odds of becoming homeless within a year of release from incarceration are 1 in 11.70 Additionally, approximately two-thirds of Larkin Street youth report experiencing a serious mental health issue within the past 30 days at their intake.71

The homeless youth population is not homogenous, representing many different needs. However, all homeless youth need shelter, food, water, and clothing. Indeed, we have seen that when these needs are addressed, these youth take the lead and graduate from intensive training programs like Year Up[72] and serve the City as policy advisors, youth commissioners and community advocates. When given the opportunity, many homeless and formerly homeless youth contribute meaningfully to San Francisco.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the nation aims to eradicate youth homelessness by 2020, the Youth Commission, along with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street, urge the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to declare 2015 the Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth.

We urge the City to complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan, and establish a new TAY Housing goal after the TAY Housing Assessment is completed during the summer of 2015. We also urge the City 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 for homeless and transitionally-housed youth. The reauthorized Children and Youth Fund has dedicated funding for supporting services for TAY; the Youth Commission urges the City to help the Department of Children, Youth and their Families (DCYF) maintain accountability towards this population of youth. Ending youth homelessness in San Francisco is a necessary step towards the nation's goal of ending youth homelessness, as well as San Francisco's 10-Year Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness.

[67] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.28
[68] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.28
[69] ibid
[70] 2013 San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report p.2
[71] Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2013 Report on Incidence and Needs p. 5
[72] Year Up <http://www.yearup.org/>

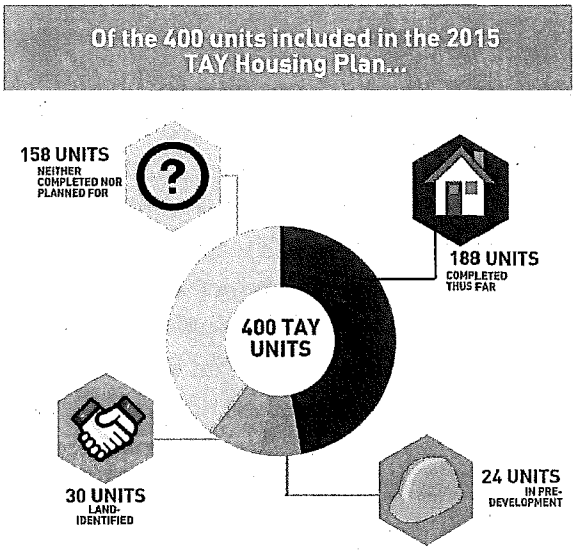
PRIORITY 10: FULLY FUND THE PLAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

Ensure that the city continue to follow through with the 2007 citywide recommendations proposed by the Transitional Youth Task Force.

BACKGROUND

In San Francisco, it is estimated that there are between 5,000 and 8,000 disconnected transitional-aged youth - youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who will not make a successful transition into adulthood:[73] 6,000 TAY lack a high school diploma, 5,500 are completely uninsured and 7,000 neither work nor go to school.[74] As a result, many TAY experience substantial periods of unemployment, homelessness, and a disproportionally high number of these young people have some degree of involvement with the criminal justice system.

In response to these numbers, the Youth Commission adopted a resolution in 2005 calling on then-Mayor Gavin Newsom to create at task force that would propose methods to better serve this population.[75] Mayor Newsom created this task force in 2006 and after a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-based service providers, and TAY, the Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force (TYTF) released its report in October 2007, Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Young Adults. This document contained 16 comprehensive recommendations for City agencies "to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth."[76] Among the report's 16 recommendations to the city's policy makers, "more accessible housing for



2Status of TAY Housing Goal

[73] Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco. (2007). Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Young Adults retrieved from http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/TYTF-final-report.pdf.

[74] Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) Initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report, page 2, retrieved from http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TAYSF-Progress-Report-2011.pdf.

[75] Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task Force. (2005).

[76] *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco*, p. 50

disconnected TAY" was a high priority.

Some City Departments responded to the TYTF report with great vigor. For example, the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) convened a TAY Housing Work Group with a variety of stakeholders to create a plan to meet the housing goals established by the Task Force. The goal of the TAY Housing Plan was to create 400 additional units for TAY by 2015, using a variety of housing models. This priority was re-affirmed by a recommendation in the TAYSF Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth 2014-16 document released in Spring 2014, which called for plans to continue the pipeline of housing for TAY to meet or exceed the 400 unit goal by 2015.[77]

The TAY Housing Work Group concluded that there is no one "best model" of housing for youth, rather a wide range of models is needed for different populations. MOH went ahead and issued its first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) exclusively for projects serving TAY in 2009. Unfortunately, due to stigma against TAY and homeless youth, some proposed affordable housing projects that would include TAY units have faced considerable neighborhood opposition, as was the case of the Booker T. Washington project which took years to officially become approved. The recession of 2010 also delayed the completion of many TAY housing units. Fortunately, the Booker T. Washington project is now underway with plans to have it built by 2017. Two other buildings with TAY housing also saw the completion of construction this past year, including 1100 Ocean and Edward the 2nd. It is now 2015, the year of the projected 400 unit deadline and there continues to be 158 units that still need to be identified.[78] Since last year, 242 TAY units have been identified and 48 units have been completed leading to a total of 188 complete units, while 24 are in predevelopment and 30 units are land indentified.[79]

In 2014, youth commissioners hosted a youth town hall on housing and affordability which was attended by over 50 youth and advocates. Youth participants were joined by several City staff who came to share their insights. In the TAY breakout at this event, participants noted that in addition to limited slots in dedicated TAY housing programs, TAY also face other barriers when searching for housing, including: age discrimination, a lack of credit history, and not being aware of their rights as tenants.

In 2013 and 2014, the Youth Commission recommended the development of an evaluation tool that measures the quality and effectiveness of TAY housing and its supportive services which includes direct feedback from TAY. The need for TAY housing is much bigger than what is available. Therefore, it is necessary to see that funds are invested wisely. The Mayor's Office of Housing decided in 2014 that it was vital to see how effective the TAY

[77] Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) Initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report, retrieved from http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TAYSF-Progress-Report-2011.pdf.

[78] Personal communication with Anne Romero, Project Manager with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, May 15, 2014.

[79] Supportive Housing for Transition-Aged Youth, prepared by Mayor's Office of Housing, Updated December 2014.

housing was at serving TAY and their diverse needs. They decided to conduct a TAY housing assessment in conjunction with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS). In late 2014, the Youth Commission met with The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Harder+Company, Human Services Agency, and the Mayor's Office of Housing to receive an update on the assessment. CHS is currently conducting an assessment of the effectiveness of the city's TAY housing through focus groups, surveys and direct outreach of TAY. They have been in consulted with TAY ED network, TAYSF and the San Francisco Youth Commission. The results of this assessment are due out at the end of summer 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Department of Public Health, and the Human Services Agency to implement the housing recommendations of the Transitional Youth Task Force and the TAYSF 2014-2016 priorities document,[80] including and especially the goal of identifying the remaining 158 housing units. We also urge the City to complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan, and establish a new TAY Housing goal after the TAY Housing Assessment is completed during the summer of 2015. The Youth Commission encourages the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to also begin planning for the commitment of applicable funds for on-site case management and other services associated with the construction of the remaining units; as well as to assess the outstanding interim needs for emergency shelter and residential treatment programs for transitional age youth.

Finally, while we recognize the paramount importance of creating housing units for our City's most disconnected and extremely low-income young people, we recommend analyzing housing outcomes for TAY who would not normally be eligible for TAY housing programs, and consider additional less resource-intensive supports for them achieving positive housing outcomes, including financial education, move-in costs or rental subsidies, apartment-hunting support, and tenants' rights education.

[80] TAYSF, Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth, Recommendations to Improve the Lives of TAY in San Francisco. Retrieved from http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=48565.

PRIORITY 11: SUPPORT A DEMOCRATIC AND ACCESSIBLE CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Support a diverse, democratically-run, affordable, accessible, and financially stable City College that serves all students well.

BACKGROUND

City College of San Francisco (CCSF) is one the largest community colleges in the country and enjoys a proud record of successfully helping students complete their GEDs, preparing students to transfer to 4-year colleges, and graduating students in the fields of food preparation, nursing, radiology, fire fighting, health education, and many more. Since opening its doors in 1935, CCSF has played an active role in the lives and educational achievements of Bay Area residents of all ages, ethnic, academic, and socio-economic backgrounds, and plays a particularly vital role in providing high-quality, affordable instruction to San Francisco's working class and immigrant communities of color through its open-access mission.

City College boasts a progress rate for an ELL students that is double that of California community colleges in general, a high student completion rate, and stronger-than-average outcomes for students transferring to CSU's.[81] City College of San Francisco is known for providing model programs supporting students who did not complete high school or who are veterans, former prisoners, working parents, and/or English language-learners. Additionally, CCSF educates a large number of students from the San Francisco Unified School District. California students have faced rising tuition costs and reductions to in-state enrollment within the California State University and University of California systems over the last several years, leaving many young people in San Francisco and throughout the state increasingly dependent on the educational opportunities provided by community colleges.[82]

In early July, 2012, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) released a devastating report calling into question the future financial viability of CCSF and demanding that CCSF institute changes to address over a dozen structural issues.[83] The ACCJC placed CCSF's academic accreditation under threat despite the fact that City College maintained a consistently high level of instructional quality.[84] The ACCJC's recommendations focused on building the college's financial reserves, restructuring its

[81] City Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[82] Asimov, Nanette. "Cal State to Close Door on Spring 2013 Enrollment." *SFGate*. SF Gate, 20 Mar. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2013.

[83] Koskey, Andrea. "City College of San Francisco Working to Keep Accreditation, Avoid Closure." *San Francisco Examiner*. San Francisco Examiner, 10 July 2012. Web. 14 Mar. 2013. Retreived at: http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/education/2012/07/city-college-san-francisco-working-keep-accreditation-avoid-closure.

[84] By the accrediting commission's own account, CCSF's instructional quality and commitment to its mission were high. See the accrediting commission's report: *CCSF Evaluation Team Report May 2012*. ACCJC, n.d. Web.

governance, and hiring more administrators, with resulting cuts to faculty and staff wages and benefits, cuts to classes, and the consolidation of academic departments and streamlining of course offerings in such a way as had the potential to reduce the diversity of programs at the college, especially courses like ethnic, women's, and LGBT studies, as well as course offerings for non-traditional students and English Language Learners.[85] Despite the college's efforts to comply with recommendations, the commission ruled to revoke the College's accreditation, effective July 2014.

California's for-profit post-secondary institutions with much lower graduation and career success rates have not been sanctioned by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, ACCJC's parent organization, at a rate nearly commensurate with the accelerated sanctioning of California's public colleges.[86] Meanwhile, ACCJC placed 37% of California community colleges on sanctions during a period of intense state budget cuts,[87] and the commission maintained its sanctioning of City College of San Francisco following the passage of Proposition A, inhibiting the democratic allocation of voter-approved supplemental funds for the college. Indeed, in a suit later filed by the city attorney against the accrediting commission substantiated that the ACCJ's had aggressively advocated for a junior-college, degree-focused community-college model in such a way as would limit broad educational offerings and remedial courses that benefit underserved communities and ELL students, and would limit fee-waivers for non-traditional students.[88] The City Attorney also found that members of the ACCJC maintain significant ties to for-profit educational ventures and student lender interests that have a stake in narrowing the open-access mission of California Community colleges.89

In Spring and Summer 2013, AFT 2121 and California Federation of Teachers filed a series of complaints against the ACCJC, resulting in an investigation by the U.S. Dept. of Education. In August 2013, the federal DOE found that the ACCJC had violated standards required of accreditation bodies throughout the course of the commission's review of CCSF in the following ways: 1) Failing to provide an evaluation team with a balanced composition of academicians and administrators 2) By failing to adhere to a policy preventing conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest 3) By failing to differentiate between compliance indicators and recommended areas for improvement, or lay out clear compliance

[85] "CCSF Activists Demand City Hall's Aid." *SFGate.* SF Gate, 15 Mar. 2003. Web. 15 Mar. 2013

[86] "CSAC to Examine Impact of "Wild West" Online Degrees on Cal Grants." Press Release. *California Student Aid Commission Press Advisory.* 14 Mar. 2012.

[87] The level of sanctioning was incongruent with national levels. Since 2011, ACCJC sanctions of California community colleges represented 64% of college sanctions nationwide. See: Hittelman, Marty. "ACCJC Gone Wild." (n.d.): 3. Web. <http://www.saveccsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ACCJC-Gone-Wild.pdf>.

[88] City Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[89] Ibid. See Also: According to an article by Josh Keller, "Accreditor of California Colleges Lacks Conflict of Interest Protections, Federal Review Says," originally published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education,* August 31, 2010

guidelines the college would need to adhere to in order to retain accreditation 4) By failing to enforce previously-noted areas of non-compliance—later cited as reasons for issuing a show-cause status to the college—within accordance with the required two-year enforcement timeline.[90]

In August 2013, City Attorney, Dennis Herrera, filed suit against the accrediting commission to prevent the closure of CCSF and to compel "the state governing board charged with evaluating college standards and eligibility for public funding to resume its legal duties."[91] Mr. Herrera asserted conflicts of interest and unfair political bias had affected accreditation evaluations; that the ACCJC had engaged in political retaliation against the college; and that the State Board of Governors had unlawfully delegated public duties to an unaccountable private agency.92 State legislators approved an audit of the commission and introduced several pieces of legislation to aid the college, including establishing more just and transparent accrediting processes, reestablishing the elected Board of Trustees, and stabilizing funding amidst enrollment drops that have occurred throughout the accreditation crisis.93

Following the disempowerment of the democratically elected Board of Trustees and the installation of the special trustee with extraordinary powers, decisions as to the college's educational future have become less transparent and student and faculty leadership and voice have been undermined. In July 2013, student trustee, Shanell Williams, was barred from the chancellor search committee meeting. In March 2014, student protesters were pepper-sprayed and arrested while protesting a new student payment policy and a proposed 19% raise for top administrators.

Seeing that the lack of democratic governance had neither appeased the demands of the accrediting commission, nor sustained the unique abilities of the college to serve the needs of San Francisco's diverse communities, the Youth Commission supported a resolution by Supervisor Campos, later unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors in March 2014, calling for the re-instatement of City College's duly elected Board of Trustees (File No. 140123).

Since the Youth Commission initially passed a resolution (1213-14) on these issues in March 2013, a number of City leaders have continued to mobilize around this issue. The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution (File No. 130303) in April 2013 in support of the utilization of Prop A funds in accordance with the language of the proposition; in support of preserving the quality and

[90] For a full text version of the Dept. of Ed. decision letter, See: http://www.saveccsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/WASC-jr-decision-letter-081313-FINAL.pdf

[91] Attorney Dennis Herrera News Release, August 22, 2013; Retrieved at: http://www.sfcityattorney.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1335

[92] Ibid.

[93] AB1942 by Assembly member Rob Bonta, D-Alameda, secures transparent, fair accrediting practices for all community colleges. AB2087 by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco, defends local, democratic accountability and passed the state assembly by 74-0. State Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, authored SB965, would stabilize City College's funding while its enrollment recovers from the damage caused by the accreditation commission's decision.

diversity of education at the college; and considering in-kind and other support of the college. City Attorney, Dennis Herrera, also demonstrated courageous leadership by taking action to halt the impending closure of the college. Mayor Lee and other elected leaders[94] called on the accrediting commission to grant an extension on the deadline for revoking the college's accreditation.[95]

Recent Updates

In January 2014, Superior Court Judge Karnow granted an injunction blocking the commission's decision to revoke the college's accreditation. In January 2015, the ACCJC announced it would grant City College two more years to come into compliance, two days before Judge Karnow let the commission's accrediting decision stand, but ruled that the commission had illegally withheld explanations of some findings and failed to let the college defend itself, and ordered the commission to provide the explanations and hear the college's defense.

In early 2015, current state Assemblyman David Chiu introduced legislation aiming to increase accountability for community college accrediting agencies by enabling community colleges to provide feedback on an accrediting agency's performance without fear of retribution.

In February 2015, California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris appointed Guy Lease as the new special trustee with extraordinary powers" amid student calls for the reinstatement of the elected Board of Trustees. Harris confirmed the elected trustees will reassume full authority around July 1, 2015.

After surviving immediate accreditation threats, the college has moved on to looking at other issues, including facilities management. After the abrupt closure of the Civic Center campus shortly before Spring classes were set to begin, students were left without alternative course offerings and no academic or transition plan. Youth Commissioners unanimously supported Supervisor Kim's resolution (File No. 150251) urging the administration of CCSF to restore neighborhood classes displaced by the closure of the Civic Center campus, later passed by the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendations

There are few issues that have such an impact of young San Franciscans' ability to develop as engaged and critical citizens; achieve equal access to the economic opportunities San Francisco has to offer; or remain and work in the city they call home as the presence of a affordable, accessible City College that is dedicated to serving the needs of diverse students. Given the stake young people and the community at-large have in the college's future, we urge the City's elected leaders to take all possible measures to support the restoration of democratic governance and robust and meaningful student leadership at the College. Moreover, as a City, we must

[94] Elected leaders who have spoken out in support of the college include, but are not limited to: The SF Board of Supervisors, Tom Ammiano, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Mark Leno, David Chiu, and Nancy Pelosi, among many others.

[95] Nanette, Asimov, May 16, 2014, SF Chronicle, "Accreditors firm on deadline for closing City College of S.F," Retrieved at: http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Accreditors-firm-on-deadline-for-closing-City-5482174.php

continue to stand for and ensure the continuance of the college's open-access mission.

We further urge the City to continue to explore means of supporting the college, especially by investigating ways to reduce and reverse drops in enrollment. We would like to thank members of the Board of Supervisors, and further encourage and support them, in their efforts to ensure transparency and transition-planning in cases where the College conducts any facility closures, renovations, or cancels classes or programs. We urge the maintenance of quality student services, and we urge your ongoing support to ensure that students, especially non-traditional students including undocumented, immigrant, and disabled students, as well as students at the College's satellite campuses, are well-served and their academic futures secure.

Finally, nothing has proved to be out of the bounds of the ACCJC's determination to discredit City College of San Francisco. As a City, we must 'sleep with one eye open' on this issue. We encourage members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to ' begin considering a plan for the College's and City's response in the case of another decision by the ACCJC to either revoke the college's accreditation or to recommend changes that would diminish the College's open access mission after the restoration period is up.

PRIORITY 12: INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF THE ANTI-ABORTION BANNERS DISPLAYED ON MARKET STREET

Urging the Board of Supervisors investigate the impacts of the anti-abortion messages displayed on City-managed lamp posts and the City's efforts to educate youth about their reproductive rights and health

BACKGROUND

During January 2015, banners claiming that "Abortion Hurts Women" were displayed on City-managed lampposts along Market street for at least the second time in two years. The statements spread scientifically false public health statements about abortions, which are only dangerous to women and girls when they are illegal. Abortions, since their legalization in 1973, are considered very safe medical procedures. The attack on safe and legal abortions poses a risk to all women, especially young women.

Young people need access to accurate information and to education about reproductive health, including our right to a safe, legal abortion. Compared to adults, youth may be less knowledgeable about this issue, and may be especially vulnerable to the statements displayed on Market St.

The decision about how to respond to an unplanned pregnancy is one of the most difficult decisions a young woman may ever face. False and shaming statements attempt to manipulate young women's decision-making and may lead young women and girls to consider taking unsafe and uninformed actions.

Nationally, almost 615,000 U.S. women aged 15-19 become pregnant each year.[96] The San Francisco neighborhoods in which the banners were displayed, Tenderloin and South of Market, are home to youth and families and are among the City's lowest-income neighborhoods, which have the highest rates of low-weight birth, and delayed access to prenatal care.[97] Overall, 32.3% of the 202 adolescent births in San Francisco in 2012 occurred in areas of concentrated poverty.[98]

The Mayor and members of the Board introduced legislation in 2014 ensuring women have the ability to access reproductive health facilities without harassment, and the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution opposing these same banners, also in 2014. Still, the placement of the banners on lamp posts gives the unfortunate impression of public endorsement of the messages.

In March 2015, members of the Board introduced an ordinance (File No. 150241),

[96] Guttmacher Institute, "Fact Sheet: American Teens' Sexual and Reproductive Health," Retrieved at: http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-ATSRH.html
[97] San Francisco Department of Public Health Family Planning Program, "Needs Assessment," June 2013.
[98] California Department of Public Health, "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, San Francisco County, 2012" Retrieved at: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/San%20Francisco.pdf

which was approved as to form by the City Attorney, which would amend the administrative code to prohibit advertising of sugar-sweetened beverages on City property due to public health concerns. We believe this may provide a guideline for upholding similar standards for public health information concerning reproductive health on city property and lamp posts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission respectfully urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing addressing the impacts of the anti-abortion messages displayed on Market street and inquiring into the City's efforts to educate young people about their reproductive rights and health.

We urge the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to prioritize and engage in public messaging efforts that honor reproductive choice and public health during the January anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision, the same time of year in which the banners are displayed each year, in order to counter the shaming messages.

Finally, we urge members of the Board of Supervisors to explore legislative avenues for amending the public works code to ensure any public health information displayed on city-managed lampposts – beyond basic information about public events – is scientifically-verifiable and in the best interests of public health.

PRIORITY #13: EXPAND IMPLEMENTATION OF 12N CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING AND EFFORTS TO TRACK LGBTQ YOUTH IN CITY SERVICES

Dedicate support to ensure that youth-serving City Departments are undertaking efforts to identify the needs of LGBTQ youth, use inclusive intakes, assume best practices, and train staff in accordance with section 12(N) of the San Francisco admin code

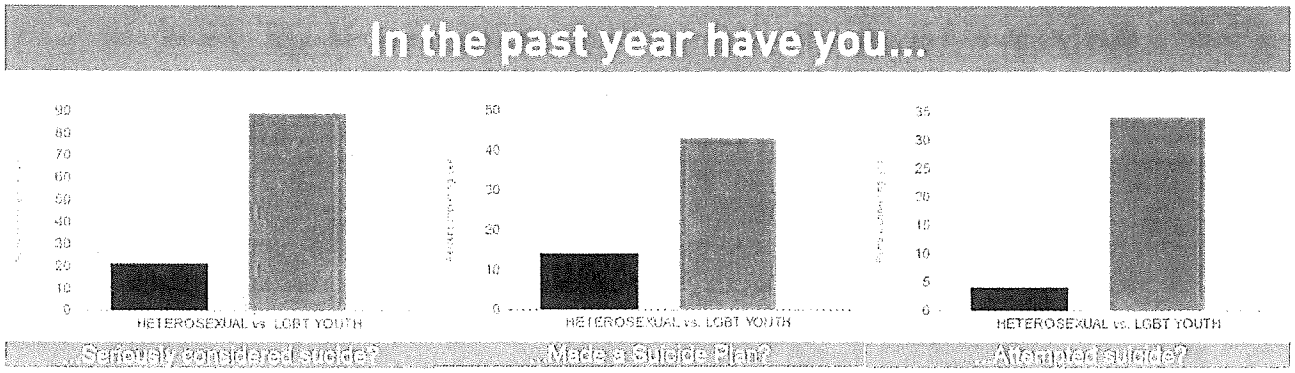
BACKGROUND

Adopted in June of 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 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (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.[99]

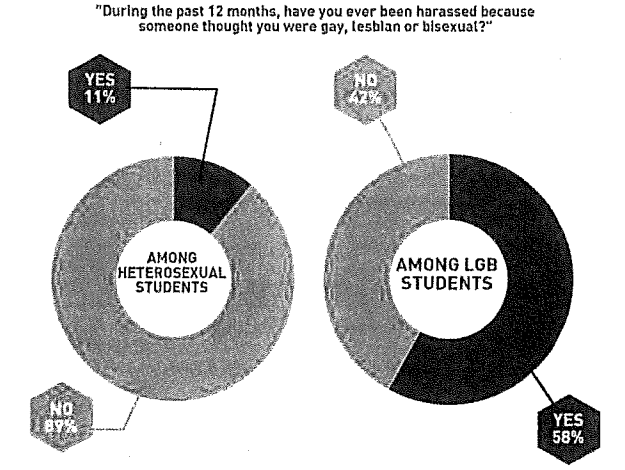
For the past sixteen years, this well-intentioned mandate that was designed to help queer youth access culturally competent services has been an unfunded mandate. In 2012, the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and the Youth Commission prepared a training tool which is being piloted at DPH sites. However, there are few resources to support other departments in developing relevant staff trainings, developing capacity to make appropriate referrals for LGBTQ youth, or identifying administrative barriers that keep queer and trans youth from equally accessing their services. Notably, most city departments and contractors do not currently collect information regarding the sexual orientation or gender identity of youth they serve.[100] As a result, there are few means of determining how and whether queer and trans youth are accessing services, let alone determining what outcomes they experience.

[99] San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 12N: *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training,* Retrieved at: http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter12nlesbiangaybisexualtransgenderq?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca

[100] As of 2014, DPH was revising intakes to collect this demographic data. Other departments, such as the Juvenile Probation Department, may ask the question during interviews, but do not collect or store the information as a retrievable data point. April 17, 2014 Personal Communication with Michael Baxter, MSW, Director of Family Planning (MCAH) and Youth Programs (COPC), San Francisco Department of Public Health; and February 19, 2014 Personal Communication with Allen Nance, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department



3Suicide Risk



4School-Based Harassment Due to Sexual Orientation

Fifteen years after the passage of 12N, San Francisco's LGBTQ youth are still very in need of excellent services. Nationally, 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.[101] LGB youth in San Francisco are harassed more (Figure 3.1) and are more likely to consider suicide (Figure 3.2) than their heterosexual peers. There is a lack of research on how suicide risk affects transgender youth, but one study among adults and young adults found that 30.1 percent of transgender individuals surveyed reported having ever attempted suicide; this is 6-7 times higher than the general young adult population.[102]

UPDATES

In June 2013, Supervisor Avalos, along with co-sponsoring Supervisors Campos and Wiener, sponsored a hearing in Neighborhood Services and Safety regarding various city departments' efforts to implement 12N. DPH, HRC, DCYF, DHR, JPD, and HSA were all in attendance. Several departments had initiated notable efforts to create supportive environments for LGBTQIQ youth. However, no departments had means of tracking service outcomes for LGBTQIQ youth. Save for DPH's pilot training, none of these efforts were specifically aligned with the scope of the ordinance.

This hearing made clear both the willingness and enthusiasm of the City family to address the needs of LGBTQ youth, as well as the need for a well-supported implementation plan for the ordinance. In January 2014, Youth Commissioners, Supervisor Avalos' office, and staff from the Human Rights Commission, DPH, and DCYF teamed up to

[101] See: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2010/06/21/7980/gay-and-transgender-youth-homelessness-by-the-numbers/

[102] See: http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=232&name=DLFE-334.pdf

begin hosting working group meetings with members of key youth-serving city departments. To date, staff from the Juvenile Probation Department, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Public Library, the Human Rights Commission, TAY SF, the Youth Commission, and Supervisor Avalos' office have participated in these meetings to discuss their respective efforts to implement best practices for serving LGBTQ youth as well as to share insights about what types of competency trainings would be most supportive of staff in their departments.

Several departments submitted questionnaires detailing the nature, scope, and setting of youth services they provide, including providing key insights regarding gender-segregated, residential, detention, and contracted services. These insights will be critical in ensuring that the ordinance is implemented in a way that substantively impacts the lives of LGBTQIQ youth. We commend all participating departments for their effort and look forward to our continued work together.

In January 2015, youth commissioners passed a resolution (1415-RC-01) commending the Department of Public Health for its leadership in implementing a training on Chapter 12N of the city's administrative code, and recognizing the department's commitment to providing excellent services to LGBTQQ youth.[103]

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission would like to thank members of the Board of Supervisors for attention to this matter, as well as key youth-serving city departments for participating in working group meetings, especially the Department of Public Health.

The Youth Commission respectfully urges Mayor Lee, the Board of Supervisors, and City Departments to identify and dedicate funding sources to support implementation of 12N competency trainings and to support planning and coordination of 12N implementation efforts.

The Commission additionally requests that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors call on City departments to begin collecting information on sexual orientation and gender identity in intake forms, beginning in the upcoming fiscal year.

103 http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=51213