

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kiely Hosmon, Director
Youth Commission
FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk,
Government Audit and Oversight Committee
DATE: December 20, 2019
SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors has received the following proposed legislation which is being referred to the Youth Commission as per Charter, Section 4.124 for comment and recommendation. The Commission may provide any response it deems appropriate within 12 days from the date of this referral.

File No. 190418

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to open a Navigation Center within six months in each of two supervisorial districts where no Navigation Center currently exists, and to open at least one Navigation Center within 30 months in each supervisorial district where no Navigation Center currently exists; to revise the operational standards for Navigation Centers by, among other things, allowing Navigation Centers to serve up to 130 residents, specifying that each Navigation Center must allow residents to reside at the Center for at least 90 days, and to continue in residence so long as they are participating in assigned services; to require each Navigation Center to develop a "Good Neighbor Policy" and a plan to conduct outreach to people experiencing homelessness in the neighborhood surrounding the Center; to require HSH to develop "Fair Share Siting Criteria" to inform the selection of sites for Navigation Centers; to provide that the Shelter Monitoring Committee shall have the power and duty to visit and monitor conditions at Navigation Centers, in addition to shelters; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Government Audit and Oversight Committee.

RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION Date: February 3, 2020

No Comment
[X] Recommendation Attached

Handwritten signature of Josephine Curator

Chairperson, Youth Commission

Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
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YOUTH COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM

TO: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Government Audit and Oversight Committee
FROM: Youth Commission
DATE: Monday, February 3, 2020
RE: Referral response to BOS File No. 190418 [Administrative Code - Navigation Centers for the Homeless]

At our **Monday, February 3, 2020, meeting**, the Youth Commission voted to not support the following motion:

BOS File No. 190418 [Administrative Code - Navigation Centers for the Homeless]

The Youth Commissioners have provided a memo with their explanation of why they are opposing this legislation (attached).

Youth Commissioners thank the Board of Supervisors for their attention to this issue. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (415) 554-6446, or your Youth Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josephine Cureton".

Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on February 3, 2020
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission



Memorandum

TO: Youth Commissioners (x17)
Cc: Youth Commission Staff

FROM: YC Housing and Land Use Committee

RE: BOS File No. 190418 - Navigation Centers (Haney) - Recommendation
DATE: January 30, 2020

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE NEEDED PLEASE REVIEW FYI

To whom it may concern:

January 30, 2020

On January 30, 2020, the Housing and Land Use Committee of the San Francisco Youth Commission reviewed [BOS File No. 190418](#), concerning Navigation Centers, which is referred to the Youth Commission for comment and is scheduled to be heard at the full commission meeting of February 3, 2020.

As a policy committee of the Youth Commission, the Housing and Land Use Committee advocates for housing and supportive services for youth; while holding the City and County accountable to its commitments to resolving youth homelessness; and for creating equitable transportation options for young people in San Francisco.

As this legislation deals with the policy jurisdiction of the committee, we felt it incumbent on us to communicate our collective position on this legislation, particularly relating to how it affects our advocacy for a navigation center for transitional age youth (TAY). This memorandum reflects our collective recommendation to the full Youth Commission as to what position it should take relative to this consequential legislation.

We recommend the Youth Commission oppose this legislation unless amended to reinstate the existing mandate for a TAY Navigation Center. While we fully support the general intent of the legislation to expand navigation centers to all neighborhoods in the City, we have multiple concerns with the language of the legislation and its side-effects.

First, we are not convinced that even the base level requirement that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) open two new navigation centers within six months, and a navigation center in every district within 30 months is a goal that the City can set itself in good faith, for several reasons:

- The TAY navigation center requirement was added in 2016 by [Ordinance No. 117-16](#): we are well past the many deadlines set for it to be opened, and yet still, only recently has a project even been announced and started to make its way through the planning and approval process. Why should we believe then that just because there is a legal requirement to open these centers, they will actually be opened? The sloth-like pace of the City to even get to a community engagement process on this particular navigation center belies the ability of the City to efficiently execute its promises to completion.

- Further, experience has told us that cooperation of Supervisors is needed to get what seem to be controversial projects going in their district. We have no reason to believe that this is guaranteed. And while we support a robust community engagement process in advance of any navigation center project moving forward, as this legislation requires, the six-month deadline to open two new navigation centers makes this seemingly impossible.
- Finally, there is no sort of penalty, consequence, punishment, or reprimand if HSH does not meet the deadlines for opening new Navigation Centers as specified in this legislation (see pages 7-9 of the legislation as of January 30, 2020). Given these deadlines have no weight, and we feel uncomfortable with the City making a promise that we have confidence we will meet.

Second, and more importantly, **this legislation removes the requirement that a TAY Navigation Center be opened**, as follows:

- Existing section 106.2(c), proposed to be removed: At least one Navigation Center **shall** focus on the needs of homeless persons, aged 18-29, who have experienced street homelessness. (emphasis added);
- New section 106.3-1(c)(2) proposed to replace the former section: At least one Navigation Center **may** focus on the needs of homeless persons between the ages of 18 and 29 (transitional-aged youth), inclusive, who have experienced street homelessness. (emphasis added).

Though we recognize that this change is in the context of adding "may" clauses for other specific groups with specific needs, we have seen by our experience with the TAY Navigation Center that, unless there is an actual requirement to open one, navigation centers for specific populations may very well never be opened at all. We do not think having a lot of suggested navigation centers is good policy. Rather, the City should focus on the priorities it has already set itself regarding the homelessness crisis.

Furthermore, navigation centers do not always remain open indefinitely. Of the eight navigation centers opened so far in the City, two have closed. While one navigation center has been proposed for TAY, even if it opens it may close again in a few years to make way for another use at the site. By removing the legal requirement that at least one navigation center be set aside for TAY, we could end up a few years down the line again without a TAY navigation center, and on no sound legal basis to demand one.

For all these reasons, we oppose this legislation as written, and **urge the full Youth Commission to motion to oppose this legislation unless amended** to reinstate existing Section 106.2(c) of the Administrative Code, which the legislation sponsor is proposing to remove.

We thank you for your consideration.

Housing and Land Use Committee

San Francisco Youth Commission

Memorandum adopted unanimously January 30, 2020

(Commissioners Dong, Alameri, Quick, Ty and Hirji present)