



City and County of San Francisco YOUTH COMMISSION

MINUTES

**Monday, February 5, 2024
5:00 p.m.**

**IN-PERSON MEETING
City Hall, Room 416
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
San Francisco, CA 94102**

IN-PERSON MEETING with REMOTE VIEWING via Webex

Members: Ewan Barker Plummer (Chair, Mayoral), Gabbie Listana (Vice Chair, D6), Téa Lonné Amir (Comms & Outreach Officer, Mayoral), Kelly Wu (Comms & Outreach Officer, D3), Allister Adair (Legislative Affairs Officer, D2), Jason Fong (Legislative Affairs Officer, D7), Chloe Wong (D1), Linda Ye (D4), Helen Cisneros (D5), Galicia Stack Lozano (D8), Skylar Dang (D9), Adrianna Faagau-Noa (D10), Imaan Ansari (D11), Valentina Alioto-Pier (Mayoral), Isabella T. Perez (Mayoral), Aryelle Lampkins (Mayoral), Joselyn Marroquin (Mayoral).

Present: Ewan Barker Plummer, Gabbie Listana, Téa Lonné Amir, Kelly Wu, Jason Fong, Chloe Wong, Linda Ye, Helen Cisneros, Galicia Stack Lozano, Skylar Dang, Adrianna Faagau-Noa, Imaan Ansari, Valentina Alioto-Pier, Isabella T. Perez, Aryelle Lampkins, Joselyn Marroquin.

Absent: Allister Adair (excused).

Tardy: None.

The San Francisco Youth Commission met in-person with remote access on February 5, 2024, with Chair Barker Plummer presiding.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance

Chair Barker Plummer called the meeting to order at 5:09pm.

On the call of the roll:



Roll Call Attendance: 16 present, 1 absent.

Chloe Wong present
Allister Adair absent
Kelly Wu present
Linda Ye present
Helen Cisneros present
Gabbie Listana present
Jason Fong present
Galia Stack Lozano present
Skylar Dang present
Adrianna Faagau-Noa present
Imaan Ansari present
Valentina Alioto-Pier present
Isabella T. Perez present
Aryelle Lampkins present
Joselyn Marroquin present
Téa Lonné Amir present
Ewan Barker Plummer present

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Commissioner Ye, seconded by Officer Fong, motioned to excuse Officer Adair. Staff mentioned that Officer Adair had a delayed flight from a debate competition in Nevada. No public comment. The motion was carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 16 ayes, 1 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair absent
Kelly Wu aye
Linda Ye aye
Helen Cisneros aye
Gabbie Listana aye
Jason Fong aye
Galia Stack Lozano aye
Skylar Dang aye
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye
Imaan Ansari aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye
Isabella T. Perez aye



Aryelle Lampkins aye
Joselyn Marroquin aye
Téa Lonné Amir aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: Officer Adair's absence excused.

2. Communications

Alondra Esquivel Garcia, Director of the SFYC, shared communications and meeting announcements with Commissioners.

3. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

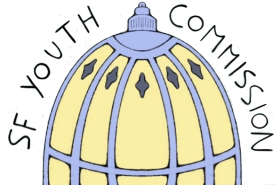
Commissioner Dang, seconded by Commissioner Ye, motioned to approve the February 5, 2024 full Youth Commission meeting agenda. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 16 ayes, 1 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair absent
Kelly Wu aye
Linda Ye aye
Helen Cisneros aye
Gabbie Listana aye
Jason Fong aye
Galia Stack Lozano aye
Skylar Dang aye
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye
Imaan Ansari aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye
Isabella T. Perez aye
Aryelle Lampkins aye
Joselyn Marroquin aye
Téa Lonné Amir aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: Agenda Approved.

4. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)



a. January 22, 2024 (Packet Materials)

Commissioner Alioto-Pier, seconded by Commissioner Wong, motioned to approve the January 22, 2024 full Youth Commission meeting minutes. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 16 ayes, 1 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair absent
Kelly Wu aye
Linda Ye aye
Helen Cisneros aye
Gabbie Listana aye
Jason Fong aye
Galia Stack Lozano aye
Skylar Dang aye
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye
Imaan Ansari aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye
Isabella T. Perez aye
Aryelle Lampkins aye
Joselyn Marroquin aye
Téa Lonné Amir aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: Minutes Approved.

5. Public Comment on matters not on Today's Agenda (2 minutes per comment)

No public comment.

6. Presentation (discussion and action item)

- a. Draft Plan to Build the City's Defense Against Sea Level Rise and Earthquakes
 - i. Presenter: Messiah Foster, Port of San Francisco Communications Manager

Brad Benson is presenting instead of Messiah Foster, who is joined by two fellow staff. Benson gave the presentation in regards to San Francisco's Waterfront Flood Study, and the draft plan to build San Francisco's defenses against sea level rise and earthquakes.



Chair Barker Plummer thanked the presenters for doing the work that they do, and that he now sees how interrelated the waterfront is to young people and the rest of the City. Commissioner Dang added that she also appreciates their work, especially since she got to see behind the scenes when she did an internship with the Port. Commissioner Ye appreciates how much feedback they're taking in on this project, and they know how important it is to protect the Embarcadero from climate change.

Officer Fong asked if there's an effort to protect neighborhoods on the west side of San Francisco, to which Benson said that the Port doesn't control the waterfront on the west side of the City, but also that those neighborhoods have the "Ocean Beach Master Plan" and an increasing elevation that leaves it more protected.

Chair Barker Plummer asked what the coordination looks like between the master plans and projects taking place to protect the waterfront, to which Benson said that there's a Sea Level Rise Coordination Committee and there's lots of collaboration in this effort.

Officer Fong asked what the infrastructure will look like literally to prevent sea level rise, to which Benson said that the draft plan has a few different iterations that would depend on the surrounding environment (i.e. flood gates, flood-proofing, raising the shoreline). Officer Fong followed up by asking where the 35% of the cost will come from since the remaining amount is being covered by the federal government, to which Benson said that that's the big question since that 35% is over \$4 billion and they would have to generate both local and state funding initiatives.

Chair Barker Plummer said that he sees this draft plan as a possibility for the Youth Commission to do advocacy in support of in the future. Officer Wu asked how likely it would be for Congress to pass the legislation in 2026, to which Benson said that he thinks there's a good chance and that we have good federal representatives who will fight for this funding to be approved.

7. Budget Community Forum

a. Presenter: YC Staff

Specialist Zhan said that they will be postponing the Youth Budget Community Forum that was scheduled for tomorrow, and that it will be moved to Wednesday, February 21st instead. Chair Barker Plummer said every commissioner should be inviting at least one or two people each, so that they have good turnout. Staff will be putting together an RSVP link as well to ensure they have commitments and an idea of how many attendees to expect at the event.

8. Committee Reports (discussion item)



a. Executive Committee

i. Legislative Affairs Officers

Officer Fong said there wasn't that much new legislation introduced by the Board of Supervisors or Mayor, but they will be keeping their eyes out for any updates. Officer Adair was absent.

ii. Communication and Outreach Officers

Officer Lonné Amir said there isn't anything urgent to update, but that they've been posting information regarding committees and recaps.

iii. General Committee Updates

Vice Chair Listana said they talked about the Youth Budget Community Forum at the last Executive Committee meeting, but no major updates.

b. Civic Engagement and Education Committee

Commissioner Perez said that CEEC held a joint hearing with the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee last week to discuss school safety in SFUSD. She added that there was a lot of conversation about the school safety systems throughout the district, status of the school's intercoms, and additional information from SFUSD's administration.

c. Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee

Officer Fong said that they worked on BPPs at the last committee meeting.

d. Transformative Justice Committee

Commissioner Ye said that they also worked on their BPPs, and that there were some commissioners and staff at the event this past weekend with Black Women Revolt in regards to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

9. Roll Call and Introductions

Roll call for introduction of resolutions, requests for hearings, letters of inquiry, and Commissioners' reports on their Commission related activities.

- a. Presenters: Chair Barker Plummer, Vice Chair Listana, Officer Adair, Officer Fong, Officer Wu, Officer Lonné Amir, Commissioner Ye, Commissioner Alioto-Pier



Commissioner Barker Plummer said he has been working on Vote16 efforts in coordination with community folks, reached out to commissioners to ensure the BPPs are linked to the same document, and to reach out if they need anything.

Commissioner Listana has been doing Vice Chair duties in Executive Committee and attending some local community events.

Commissioner Adair was absent.

Commissioner Fong did a presentation on Vote16 in Chinatown with Chair Barker Plummer, as well as focusing on writing two resolutions related to climate infrastructure and the payroll system issues in SFUSD.

Commissioner Wu has been working on social media posts, reaching out to student leaders in various schools across SFUSD, and putting together a festival with low-income youth and invited everyone to help volunteer. She also wanted to work on a resolution regarding turning a property in North Beach into housing.

Commissioner Lonné Amir has been working on BPPs, doing Instagram posts with commissioner information, and has still been working on the youth tech event sometime in the future.

Commissioner Ye has been working on BPPs, working on a commendation resolution for United Playaz to present in the next month or so, doing some outreach events, and advocating for more youth engagement with Officer Fong.

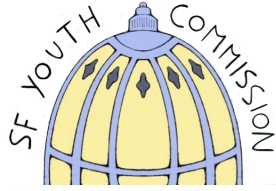
Commissioner Alioto-Pier has been working on BPPs and asked if anyone wants to help, they'd love to have some support.

b. Other Legislative Introductions

No other legislative introductions.

10. Staff Report (discussion item)

Director Esquivel Garcia said that she is working on planning the San Jose / San Francisco Youth Commission meet-up on Sunday, April 14th, and to expect more information in regards to our Youth Commission's internal budget at the next full Youth Commission meeting.



Specialist Zhan said that the Youth Commission website has been completely updated with all of the recent actions from the YC, she is started to schedule the April/May 1:1's with their appointing officers so look out for the availability requests from her, and she is scheduling the presentation for the Budget and Policy Priorities to the BOS Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Specialist Ochoa said that

11. Announcements (this includes Community Events)

Commissioner Ye said that the Board of Supervisors will be introducing a resolution to recognize Teen Dating Violence Awareness tomorrow at 3:30pm. Commissioner Dang said that the DCYF's summer resource fair will be on Saturday, February 24th, and that if they want to table they are encouraged to do so. Specialist Zhan said that there will be a dog toy-making event in collaboration with the Contemporary Jewish Museum.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business on the agenda, the full Youth Commission adjourned at 6:05pm.

Expand the Voting Age to 16 in San Francisco Elections

Background

The Youth Commission believes that expanding the voting age to 16 and 17-year-olds in San Francisco municipal elections will increase overall civic engagement and provide adequate representation in the voting process.

In 2015 the Youth Commission embarked on a mission to pass Vote16 into the San Francisco charter. The initiative has had two runs within the Youth Commission, once in 2016 and the second in 2020. Both years had strong support from the Board of Supervisors along with many other elected officials. In 2016, under the name Proposition F, Vote16 lost by 2.1% of the vote, following up in 2020, under the name Proposition G, Vote16 again lost, but this time by smaller margins at 0.80% of the vote.¹

The youth commission still believes that Vote16 is a priority for the future of San Francisco. We are optimistic about the promising future of Vote16 in 2024.

Responsibilities

At 16 and 17 years old, teens hold many societal responsibilities. By 16, teens can work up to 46 hours a week and can get taxed for the money they earn at those jobs.² Additionally, the sales tax that teens get cited for every time they purchase a product. Since teens are taxed, it is a form of taxation without representation since 16 and 17-year-olds can not vote.

In California, teens can be tried as adults in court at 16 years old, being held responsible as adults in court, but not in local elections.³ Furthermore, teens are deemed responsible enough to hold several licenses such as driving, hunting, pilots, drones, boating, motorcycles, and food handling.⁴⁵⁶⁷⁸ Since teens are trusted to maneuver heavy, dangerous, and potentially deadly machinery and services, it would be just to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.

Access to resources

16 and 17-year-olds have more resources than ever before, using them to form informed opinions on city matters, and are prepared to use them to vote. High Schoolers in San Francisco are required to complete an American government and civics class, informing them on political systems and the legislative process, while simultaneously providing a space for educated

¹ "Yes on G Earns 49.2% and Looks to the Future." 2020. Vote 16 SF. <https://www.vote16sf.com/post/prop-g-final-statement>.

² "What are California limitations on the hours that minors are allowed to work?" 2020. SHRM. <https://www.shrm.org/topics-tools/tools/hr-answers/california-limitations-hours-minors-allowed-to-work>.

³ "Proposition 57." n.d. California Courts. Accessed February 8, 2024. <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB24-5H-1.pdf>.

⁴ "License Requirements - California DMV." n.d. California DMV. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/handbook/motorcycle-handbook/license-requirements/>.

⁵ "Boating laws rules and license requirements." n.d. California State Parks. Accessed February 15, 2024. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28985.

⁶ "California Food Handlers Card Requirements." n.d. Food Handlers Card Help . Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://foodhandlerscardhelp.com/food-handlers-card-california/>.

⁷ "Provisional Licensing - California DMV." n.d. California DMV. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-education-and-safety/educational-materials/fast-facts/provisional-licensing-ffd1-19/>.

⁸ Rupperecht, Jonathan. n.d. "- Drone Law and Drone Attorney Assistance." - Drone Law and Drone Attorney Assistance. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://jrupperechtlaw.com/section-107-61-eligibility/>.

discourse amongst peers and teachers.⁹ These conversations in classrooms throughout San Francisco provide a safe foundation for teens to inform themselves on city matters. Additionally, with such easy access to teachers or librarians, 16 and 17-year-olds can easily ask for clarification or background on city matters, something that is mainly out of reach in adulthood.

With technology being an integral part of teens' everyday lives, they have the appropriate knowledge to find accurate and unbiased information about items on the ballot using the internet.¹⁰ It is with these resources that 16 and 17-year-olds can easily access the tools necessary to effectively participate in city government.

Overall Voter Turnout

Studies have shown that voting is a habitual action. Once someone casts their first vote they are more likely to continue voting in later life.¹¹ Expanding the voting age to 16 and 17 years old increases the likelihood that voting will become a habit. A person who votes in the first election they are eligible for is likely to continue voting consistently, while someone who doesn't will take several years to pick up the habit. The earlier someone starts voting, the more likely they are to be a lifelong voter, increasing overall voter turnout.

Additionally, 18 is a transitional year. At 18 teens are transitioning into adulthood, beginning college, moving out, and finding and starting new jobs. Such a busy time interrupts the importance, to many people, of voting and thus delays their first-time voting, which decreases the likelihood of voting becoming a habit. Granting 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote allows for voting to become a habit of youth and increase the overall voter turnout in the future of our democracy.

Future of City

San Francisco is at a decision point. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, San Franciscans are redetermining their future. The choices made today, on issues ranging from public transit and housing to public safety and crime, will determine the future city today's teens will inherit. Those same youth should have a voice and a vote on the policies and leaders that will shape the San Francisco of tomorrow. Let's give it to them by expanding our democracy to include them.

Recommendations

1. Place a charter amendment on the ballot to expand the voting age in San Francisco to 16 – allow voters the option to expand the voting age in municipal, school district, and community college district elections to 16 on the November 2024 election ballot.

⁹ "State Minimum High School Graduation Requirements - High School (CA Dept of Education)." 2023. California Department of Education. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ga/hs/hsgmin.asp>.

¹⁰ Janna, Anderson, and Lee Rainie. 2012. "Main findings: Teens, technology, and human potential in 2020." Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2012/02/29/main-findings-teens-technology-and-human-potential-in-2020/>.

¹¹ Alexander, Coppock, and Donald P. Green. "Is Voting Habit Forming? New Evidence from Experiments and Regression Discontinuities." American Journal of Political Science 60, no. 4 (2016): 1044–62. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24877471>.

2. Support the San Francisco Youth Commission in efforts to expand civic knowledge of
Vote16

References

- Anderson, Janna, and Lee Rainie. 2012. "Main findings: Teens, technology, and human potential in 2020." Pew Research Center.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2012/02/29/main-findings-teens-technology-and-human-potential-in-2020/>.
- "Boating laws rules and license requirements." n.d. California State Parks. Accessed February 15, 2024. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28985.
- "California Food Handlers Card Requirements." n.d. Food Handlers Card Help . Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://foodhandlerscardhelp.com/food-handlers-card-california/>.
- "License Requirements - California DMV." n.d. California DMV. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/handbook/motorcycle-handbook/license-requirements/>.
- "Proposition 57." n.d. California Courts. Accessed February 8, 2024. <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB24-5H-1.pdf>.
- "Provisional Licensing - California DMV." n.d. California DMV. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-education-and-safety/educational-materials/fast-facts/provisional-licensing-ffdl-19/>.
- Rupprecht, Jonathan. n.d. "- Drone Law and Drone Attorney Assistance." - Drone Law and Drone Attorney Assistance. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://jrupprechtlaw.com/section-107-61-eligibility/>.
- "State Minimum High School Graduation Requirements - High School (CA Dept of Education)." 2023. California Department of Education. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs/hsgsrmin.asp>.

“What are California limitations on the hours that minors are allowed to work?” 2020. SHRM.

<https://www.shrm.org/topics-tools/tools/hr-answers/california-limitations-hours-minors-allowed-to-work>.

“Yes on G Earns 49.2% and Looks to the Future.” 2020. Vote 16 SF.

<https://www.vote16sf.com/post/prop-g-final-statement>.

Voter registration

Background

Since the 2020 election, voter turnout rates of people from the age of 18-24 have steadily declined.¹ With 9.6% of the population in San Francisco being people aged 18-24 only about half of them are registered to vote.²³ This means that the youth voice is underrepresented during the election cycles.

The Youth Commission of San Francisco has made past statements on the importance of voter awareness among youth across San Francisco. A continued effort must be made to give San Francisco youth the resources and opportunities that would be helpful to learn about their civic duties with pre-registering or registering to vote.

In schools

Clubs and classes within schools are incredibly helpful resources for teens in San Francisco to take or become a part of that will make them engaged and informed on their civic duties. A way that this could be enacted is through SFUSD's 2016 resolution on voter education in SF schools. It would essentially rebuild SFUSD school systems to teach voting processes, rights, and pre-registration to students.⁴ These changes would be made to every high school American democracy class in San Francisco and would require schools to provide students with pre-registration forms. However, it is unclear if these changes have been made to schools yet.

In addition to classes students can take, it's also educators themselves who have a huge influence on student voter participation. According to another study, scholars found that 64% of respondents were encouraged to vote by a teacher in high school, while only 50% of them said that they were taught how to register to vote.⁵ In the same study, they also analyzed the attitudes of young people towards voting. They found that 26% of those who were not encouraged to vote in high school, had negative feelings about voting, versus 12% of young adults who were encouraged to vote in high school. Furthermore, 25% of people who were not encouraged to vote in high school responded that they did not know enough to vote versus 15% of respondents who were encouraged to vote. These staggering statistics show that students who learn and are encouraged to vote by educators, are more likely to have positive attitudes towards voting, and are more likely to continue to vote.

¹ Catherine, Allen. 2023. "Bay Area's Young Voters Are Registering At Lower Rates. Organizers Are Combating This Ahead Of 2024 Election." SFGATE. <https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/bay-area-s-young-voters-are-registering-at-18351792.php>.

² n.d. Registration by Age Range by County. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/60day-recall-2021/age.pdf>.

³ "San Francisco, California Population 2024." n.d. World Population Review. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/san-francisco-ca-population>.

⁴ Schools to teach voting process and rights, and offer voter pre-registration to students, San Francisco Unified School District, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2016-04-14-schools-teach-voting-process-rights-and-offer-voter-pre-registration-students>

⁵ Youth Who Learned about Voting in High School More Likely to Become Informed and Engaged Voters." 2020. Tufts' CIRCLE. <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-who-learned-about-voting-high-school-more-likely-become-informed-and-engaged>.

Workshops

Although Voting Pre-registration forms are available online and in person through the Department of Elections, there are also workshops youths can attend to get the information needed. The San Francisco Government voter outreach team hosts many of these workshops, which can be found on their outreach event calendar⁶. The outreach team does presentations not only on pre-registration, but also on other topics such as voting options, language services and translated materials, accessible services and tools, ranked-choice voting, and poll worker service. It's also possible to host resource tables at individual sites. These events can help youths, especially those with language barriers, to get in-person help with voter registration and overall voting awareness. However, it's unclear how many times a year these events are held at school sites for students.

In addition, in a 2023 Youth Commission Civic Engagement Survey, it was found that when students answered “no” or “neutral” when asked if they felt prepared to vote in a local election, 45.1% of respondents responded that more outreach in schools would make them feel more prepared to vote. Furthermore, 39.3% of respondents answered that more youth voter engagement events would prepare them for voting. Moreover, when asked if students felt that San Francisco provides many opportunities for youth to be educated about local government, it was found that 19.1% of students disagreed, with 22% of students remaining neutral. Finally, when asked if students were pre-registered to vote, 59.2% of students responded that they were not. When asked why they were not pre-registered, 50.6% of students responded that they did not know they could pre-register and 24.1% of students responded that they did not know how to pre-register. These statistics show that students in our district do not feel ready to vote because of a lack of accessible resources in their schools, and not knowing available opportunities to learn about voting in general.

Recommendations:

1. A greater amount of in-school opportunities for students to learn about voter pre-registration - This includes extra time spent on how to register/be informed on what is on the ballot during class.
2. Continue funding the Department of Election's Youth Voter Outreach - This includes High School Voter Education Week, Student Poll Worker Opportunities, Preregistration outreach, and Department of Elections Tours.

⁶ San Francisco Government Voter Outreach, <https://www.sf.gov/voter-outreach>

Sources:

<https://sfelections.sfgov.org/historical-voter-turnout>

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-who-learned-about-voting-high-school-more-likely-become-informed-and-engaged>

[search/state-state-youth-voter-turnout-data-and-impact-election-laws-2022](https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-who-learned-about-voting-high-school-more-likely-become-informed-and-engaged)

<https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-8-2022-election-results-summary>

<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-who-learned-about-voting-high-school-more-likely-become-informed-and-engaged>

<https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/22-23%20BPP%20FINAL.pdf>

<https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2016-04-14-schools-teach-voting-process-rights-and-offer-voter-pre-registration-students>

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/poll-worker-information>

<https://www.sf.gov/voter-outreach>

https://sfelections.org/tools/outreach_calendar/

PROVIDE OVERSIGHT AND NEEDED INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL SAFETY

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges oversight of and investment in school safety infrastructure improvements, review of safety policies and procedures, and improved violence prevention services.

Background

Students, educators, staff, and other community members involved with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) have repeatedly expressed concerns regarding the safety policies in place at school sites across San Francisco. The San Francisco Youth Commission has consistently advocated for increased investment and quicker implementation of school safety infrastructure and policies, including in our 2022-2023 Budget and Policy Priorities.¹

Most recently a coalition of youth leaders and community advocates published an open letter to school district leaders in December 2023 expressing concern for “lacking safety policies, procedures, and infrastructure currently in place at school campuses across the city.”² In January 2024 SFUSD students organized a walkout with clear demands for safety improvements, including updating school district policies for real-time crisis communication, installation of interior door locksets at all school sites by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, implementation and advertisement of “See Something, Say Something” on all school campuses, and more.

Safety Infrastructure

A key component of creating safe learning environments for students, educators, and staff is physical safety infrastructure. This includes both infrastructure which is in place to be utilized in the case of an emergency, such as interior door locksets, as well as infrastructure which is always in use to maintain safety, such as gates and fencing around the perimeter of schools.

For many years there have been concerns around the maintenance and type of door locks in SFUSD schools. Interior door locksets, more commonly referred to as “Columbine locks”, are a standard door lock which can be locked from the exterior or interior. In the case of an active threat, this allows someone to secure a door from either side to save time and not put themselves in harm's way.

¹ 2022-2023 Budget and Policy Priorities Report. San Francisco Youth Commission, 47-52.

² Joaquin Palomino. 2023. “S.F. advocates demand reforms after students bring guns to schools.” San Francisco Chronicle.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/sfusd-gun-safety-reforms-violence-prevention-18575223.php>.

Public safety experts have repeatedly recommended schools implement interior door locksets. The final report from the Sandy Hook Shooting Advisory Commission includes doors lockable from the inside as their first recommendation.³ The initial report from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission recognizes that teachers in the Parkland shooting were often unable to lock their doors since they did not want to exit their classrooms into the hallway, as well as inadequate Public Announcement systems did not fully cover the building and were difficult to use from classrooms.⁴

According to Superintendent Matt Wayne, 25% of SFUSD school sites do not have updated, well-functioning Public Announcement systems. Current broken and outdated systems, which often also lack full coverage of school sites, have led to incidents where lockdowns were called but students and educators were left unaware.⁵

Safety Procedures

Students have also expressed concerns around the current policies and implementation of safety procedures. At a February 1, 2024 joint hearing between the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee and the Youth Commission's Civic Engagement and Education Committee student public commenters expressed that lockdown drills had not taken place at their schools for at least three years. Further concerns around the lack of awareness of SFUSD's Say Something Anonymous Reporting System and lax security presence have also been shared with the Youth Commission.⁶

There is mixed evidence for the effectiveness of lockdown drills in schools, with concerns for negative physiological impacts being weighed with the need for preparedness and awareness of procedures in the case of a violent threat.⁷ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has emphasized the need for practice drills in preparation for possible emergencies and the US Department of Education maintains

³ FINAL REPORT OF THE SANDY HOOK ADVISORY COMMISSION. Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, 32-33.
https://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/sites/ssc/files/documents/Resources/Sandy%20Hook%20Final%20After%20Action%20Report_2015.pdf.

⁴ Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. 2019. "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Report", 45-48. Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
<https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MSDHS/CommissionReport.pdf>.

⁵ Jill Tucker. 2024. "S.F. students demand district do more to prevent gun violence." San Francisco Chronicle.
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/sfUSD-gun-violence-walkout-washington-galileo-18617084.php>.

⁶ San Francisco Unified School District. 2023. "Say Something Anonymous Reporting System."
<https://www.sfUSD.edu/services/safety-emergency/say-something-anonymous-reporting-system>.

⁷ Jaclyn Schildkraut, Amanda B. Nickerson, and Richard Louv. 2022. "Should We or Shouldn't We? Arguments for and Against Lockdown Drills." The MIT Press Reader.
<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/arguments-for-and-against-lockdown-drills/>.

that lockdown drills are a critical component of school safety preparedness.⁸ Everytown for Gun Safety has published best practice recommendations for lockdown drills.⁹

At the start of the 2022-2023 academic year, SFUSD launched the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System for middle and high school students. This system, created by the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation, has been utilized by schools across the country and has been effective in preventing school violence as well as youth self-harm. While the system has shown success, many students are unaware of its existence and have not been taught how to access it.

Violence Prevention

The best strategy to keep schools and community spaces safe is to prevent and interrupt potential violence before it starts. The City and County of San Francisco funds multiple violence prevention programs for youth and young adults and recently announced an expanded partnership with SFUSD.¹⁰ This included an expansion of the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families's (DCYF) School Violence Interrupter Program, an expansion of the Human Rights Commission's Dream Keeper Initiative with the goal of preventing violence in schools, and more.

Key to violence prevention in schools is ensuring adequate mental health support for students. The Youth Commission has previously called for increased investment in school Wellness Centers, which have faced severe staffing shortages.¹¹ This has made wait times for students in need of mental health services long and made time with mental health professionals limited.

Another central component to violence prevention is reducing access to weapons, particularly in the home. Most perpetrators of school shootings use weapons obtained at their homes or the homes of a close family member, making these weapons inaccessible to youth an essential part of preventing school violence.¹² Both the San Francisco Police Code and the California Penal Code require firearm owners to securely store weapons so

⁸ Federal Emergency Management Agency. "EMI | National Standard Exercise Curriculum | HSEEP." FEMA Training. <https://training.fema.gov/programs/nsec/hseep/>.

⁹ Everytown for Gun Safety. "Minimizing the Trauma of School Shooter Drills." Everytown Research. <https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/01/Minimizing-the-Trauma-of-School-Shooter-Drills-.pdf>.

¹⁰ San Francisco Unified School District. 2023. "City and School District Leaders Join to Respond to Series of Violent Incidents Involving Youth." SFUSD. <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2023-03-21-city-and-school-district-leaders-join-respond-series-violent-incidents-involving-youth>.

¹¹ 2022-2023 Budget and Policy Priorities Report. San Francisco Youth Commission, 53-54.

¹² Patrick Carter. 2021. "Most school shooters get guns from home – and more weapons are there since the pandemic." Michigan Medicine. <https://www.michiganmedicine.org/health-lab/most-school-shooters-get-guns-home-and-more-weapons-are-there-pandemic>.

that minors cannot access them.¹³ The Youth Commission has previously called for safe firearm storage information to be shared with school families annually and to follow best practices of sending home a physical letter requiring a signature acknowledging these legal responsibilities ([RESOLUTION NO. 2022-AL-06]). While SFUSD has included this information in some email/online newsletters, they have not implemented a District-wide policy of physical letters informing caregivers of their legal responsibilities.

Recommendations:

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and Board of Supervisors to:

Safety Infrastructure

- 1. Provide needed oversight of SFUSD school safety infrastructure upgrades** – take needed action(s) to ensure safety infrastructure improvements, including but not limited to full installation of interior door locksets and replacement of inadequate/ineffective public announcement systems.
- 2. Explore funding options for SFUSD school safety infrastructure upgrades** – current plans rely heavily on the passage of a new General Obligation Bond in November 2024; work with SFUSD to determine funding gaps for safety infrastructure installation and determine funding sources, with source options including direct grants or loans from the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and/or United States Federal Government.

Safety Procedures

- 3. Ensure students, educators, and staff are prepared and trained for emergency situations including lockdowns** – take needed action(s) to ensure schools are prepared for emergency situations, including lockdowns and lockouts, while following best trauma-informed practices.
- 4. Create a public awareness campaign for the Say Something system in collaboration with SFUSD, and explore expanding the system to independent schools and youth-serving programs** – work with the school district, particularly ensuring input from students and educators at a range of school sites, to improve awareness of the Say Something system.

¹³ 9 “CHAPTER 2. Criminal Storage of Firearm [25100 - 25140],” California Legislative Information, 2010. [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=4.&title=4.&part=6.&chapter=2.&article%20\(California%20Penal%20Code%20%A7%2025100\).](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=4.&title=4.&part=6.&chapter=2.&article%20(California%20Penal%20Code%20%A7%2025100).) San Francisco Police Code, SEC. 4512. https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_police/o-o-o-8459

Violence Prevention

- 5. Improve Wellness Center wait times** – explore options to improve Wellness Center wait times and limited services through improved recruitment of mental health care professionals working in schools.
- 6. Support and encourage schools to share safe firearm storage information** – take any necessary actions to encourage and support San Francisco schools, including SFUSD, to send home physical copies of and generally promote safe firearm storage, in line with best practices recommended by gun violence prevention advocates and organizations.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN SCHOOLS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the city to address the prevalence of sexual assault and harrassment cases in schools.

Sexual assault and harrassment have continued to severely impact schools across San Francisco. Within a six month span in 2022, more than 50 lawsuits were filed against school districts across San Francisco and the larger Bay Area.¹ And over the past 7 years, more than 19 employees of the San Francisco Unified School District accused of sexual misconduct were allowed to resign to avoid termination. All to say, the city must make the necessary changes to address this systemic issue that continues to affect and harm the lives of youth.

Regarding SFUSD, a recent report from the San Francisco Chronicle shows allegations that an SFUSD athletic director at George Washington High School has been accused of sexual abuse, and despite law enforcement being contacted and an active lawsuit, he was permitted to “quietly resign” and obtain similar employment elsewhere. A California Public Records Act Request showed that only 5 out of 24 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints within the SFUSD were investigated in 2022. The lack of action and investigation further demonstrates the flaws of the reporting system and accountability throughout the school district.

Another report from the U.S Department of Education covers the recent investigation of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.² The statement, released in January of 2024, covers the Conservatory’s failed attempt at responding to a student’s allegations and providing the necessary support by abiding by the Department of Education’s Title IX grievance procedures. The Conservatory has failed to comply with Title IX regulations on multiple occasions and is just now being penalized for overlooking the complaints of its students.

Efforts to address the aforementioned issues began in 2005 when the San Francisco Youth Commission, in collaboration with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, produced a report on sexual assault and harassment in San Francisco schools entitled “Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco Schools,” which showed the primary factor preventing students from receiving needed resources and support is the disconnection between service providers and San Francisco students.³ This report entailed a survey conducted by the Youth Commission, the Youth Leadership Institute, and the Student Advisory Council, which

¹ Sophia, Bollag. 2023. “These 51 Bay Area schools face sexual abuse lawsuits. Here are the details of each case.” *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 11, 2023. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/schools-sexual-abuse-list-cases-18353656.php#SanFranciscoUnifiedx>.

² “U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Announces Resolution of Sexual Harassment Investigation of San Francisco Conservatory of Music | U.S.” 2024. Department of Education. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-educations-office-civil-rights-announces-resolution-sexual-harassment-investigation-san-francisco-conservatory-music>.

³ Peter Lauterborn, “San Francisco Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco Schools,” ed. Eamon Doyle, April 2005, https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/ftp/uploadedfiles/youth_commission/Documents_and_Publications/FINALSA%26HReport041205.pdf.

surveyed 6,000 high school students. The survey concluded that 48.4% of students are affected by sexual harassment on or off campus, exemplifying the urgent importance of this issue.

In April 2016, the Board of Supervisors passed, and then-Mayor Lee signed, legislation ([FILE NO. 150944, ORDINANCE NO. 89-16]) sponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim to create the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force. The Task Force recommended there be an established and ongoing Task Force to coordinate sexual assault prevention and response on campus and in the broader community. Secondly, the Task Force recommended to fully implement state and federal laws reflecting years of work to prevent sexual assault on campus and respond effectively when it occurs. But, despite specific recommendations to city institutions, an ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors in 2016, and resolutions by previous Youth Commissions, the issue of sexual assault and harassment runs rampant in San Francisco schools, affecting youth citywide.

In 2021, hundreds of students from at least eight San Francisco high schools walked out to protest against SFUSD's handling of sexual assault and harassment reports. But this problem is experienced by students beyond the SFUSD. In 2024, students from parochial schools across San Francisco are demanding the Archdiocese to reveal the list of priests accused to be involved in the sexual harassment cases that lie at the center of their decision to declare bankruptcy on August 21, 2023.⁴ While institutions like the Archdiocese are just now being investigated on the matter of sexual assault and harassment, these issues repeat year after year. With its 30,000 students, the city must not ignore the prevalence of these cases in the parochial schools that accompany those within the SFUSD. City services must be accessible to the entirety of city youth. The problems that have risen out of the Archdiocese support the lack of support students are given to report cases of sexual harassment and assault and receive the necessary help.

Recommendations:

1. **Conduct thorough background checks on SFUSD staff** - there should be standard background checks on newly-minted faculty and staff so as to ensure that this cycle of having teachers with criminal accusations move from one school to the next.
2. **Better inform students on how to report a sexual assault or sexual harassment case** - students should be given the tools on how to navigate these issues and know where to go in the case of an emergency. As mentioned by the Youth Commission's report in 2005, a disconnect exists between city services and the student body. This is further supported by more recent reports that directly mention the lack of clarity behind reporting guidelines.

⁴Sophia, Bollag. 2023. "Hundreds of alleged sex abuse victims in limbo as S.F. Archdiocese declares bankruptcy." *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 22, 2023. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/sf-archdiocese-bankruptcy-18310985.php>.

URGING SAN FRANCISCO TO IMPLEMENT FENTANYL OVERDOSE REDUCTION

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to implement fentanyl overdose reduction by supporting efforts to provide affordable or free Narcan and drug testing strips.

BACKGROUND

Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and selling them as real prescription medication, which has killed countless unsuspecting individuals across the United States. These counterfeit pills resemble prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), alprazolam (Xanax), and stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall). They often contain dangerous levels of fentanyl and are easy to find on social media and online marketplaces, making them accessible to anyone with a smartphone, including teens and young adults.

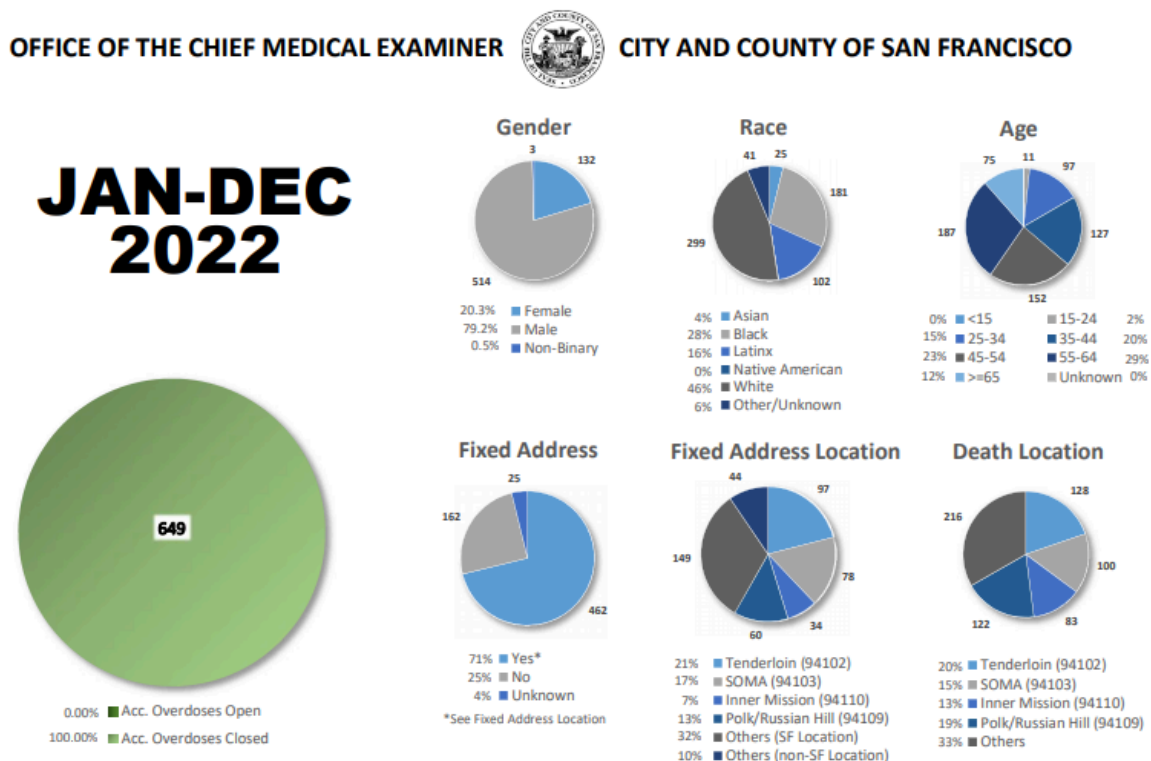
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin, easier to find, and has risen to become the deadliest drug threat in the United States. While opioids such as fentanyl can result in pleasurable feelings and a state of euphoria in patients, they can also cause nausea, constipation, and in higher doses, they can cause someone to stop breathing, or in other words experience an opioid overdose. Illegally manufactured fentanyl is found in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and in counterfeit pills. As a result, many people may not know they're ingesting fentanyl, leading to accidental poisoning. Between 2019 and 2022, the monthly percentage of fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased across 21 jurisdictions in the United States by over 200%¹

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) has issued a health alert in response to a series of overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal, among people inadvertently exposed to fentanyl while using cocaine. In 2021, 84% of teen drug overdoses found fentanyl in the substance. Fentanyl overdose deaths among youth have tripled from 2019 to 2021.²

¹Kariisa M., O'Donnell J., Kumar S., Mattson C.L., Goldberger B.A., 2023. Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths with Detected Xylazine - United States, January 2019-June 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 72, 721–727. 10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a4

² Nadworny, Elissa, and Lee V. Gaines. "As More Teens Overdose on Fentanyl, Schools Face a Drug Crisis Unlike Any Other." *NPR*, NPR, 30 Aug. 2023, www.npr.org/2023/08/30/1196343448/fentanyl-deaths-teens-schools-overdose#:~:text=Fentanyl%20was%20involved%20in%20the,tripled%20from%202019%20to%202021.

Just last year in 2023, San Francisco experienced its deadliest year for drug overdoses, surpassing the previous record of 726 deaths set in 2020. By December, the city witnessed a staggering 752 fatalities due to drug overdoses.³ Between 2022 and 2023, the number of accidental drug overdoses amongst the ages of 15-24 doubled from 11 to 22 accidental drug overdoses. Alarminglly, city officials estimate that over 80% of these cases involved fentanyl, which has underscored the severity of the crisis.

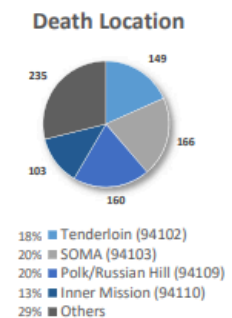
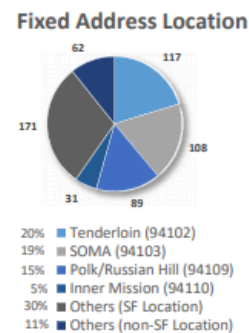
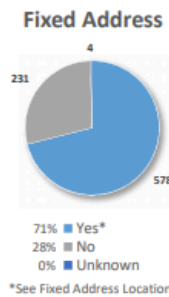
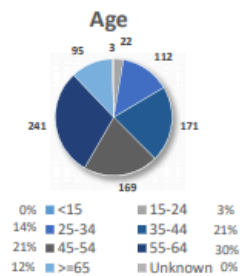
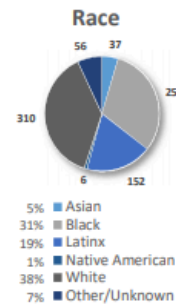
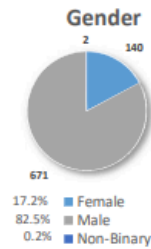
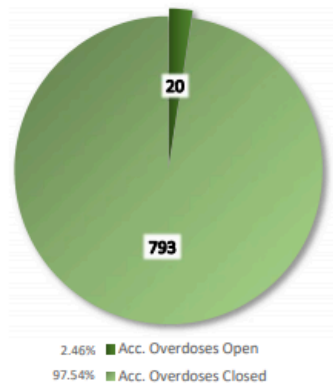


³ “2023 Is SF’s Deadliest Year Ever for Drug Overdoses; Solution to Crisis May Be in Wastewater.” *ABC7 San Francisco*, 15 Dec. 2023, abc7news.com/san-francisco-record-overdose-deaths-fentanyl-wastewater-drug-testing/14186379/.



Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to February 7, 2024

**JAN-DEC
2023**



Alongside this rise in fentanyl-related deaths, there's been a notable increase in seizures due to “tranq-dope” made by combining fentanyl with xylazine, a veterinary anesthetic that is not meant for human use.⁴ The CDC and the DEA have both highlighted this combination to be a serious public health concern. Scientific and mainstream publications have also documented its deadly impact. The White House has recognized the danger posed by fentanyl-xylazine mixes, declaring it an emerging threat to the nation.⁵

HISTORY OF NARCAN

As fentanyl-related overdoses grew in San Francisco, authorities recognized the urgent need for effective interventions to prevent fatalities. Narcan, more properly known as naloxone, emerged as a critical tool in this effort. Originally developed in the 1960s, Narcan is able to rapidly reverse the effects of opioid overdose, including those caused by fentanyl. Historically, it has been used only by trained clinical professionals for the reversal of opioid overdose in an

⁴ “DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine | DEA.gov.” 2022. Wwww.dea.gov. November 2022. <https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-reports-widespread-threat-fentanyl-mixed-xylazine>.

⁵ “What You Should Know about Xylazine | Drug Overdose | CDC Injury Center.” 2023. Wwww.cdc.gov. May 5, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs/xylazine/faq.html>.

emergency or inpatient setting.⁶ It is administered with the help of another individual as a nasal spray and quickly allows for normal breathing in those whose breath has slowed or in severe cases, stopped.

Overall, it is a safe medication and is not known to cause harm when administered in typical doses to patients, not on opioids.⁷ Naloxone has no effect at standard doses in patients not on opioids and non-opioid dependent patients in doses up to 1 mg/kg.⁸ At high doses of 2 mg/kg IV and up, patients only experienced behavioral symptoms such as dizziness, paresthesias, sweating, yawning, nausea, inertia, and diminished cognitive performance without very serious side effects.⁹

Narcan is effective with the efficacy of reversal following naloxone administration by laypersons having been reported at 75–100% and in general take-home naloxone programs are considered effective for reducing opioid overdose mortality.¹⁰

NARCAN ACCESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco has implemented various initiatives to increase access to this life-saving Narcan. These efforts included training programs for first responders, healthcare professionals, and community members such as Project FRIEND (First Responder Increased Education and Naloxone Distribution) on how to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses effectively. The trained team has since assembled an advisory committee made up of stakeholders and experts, who have worked with local and state EMS agencies to create existing protocols, training curricula, and a naloxone-distribution data collection system.¹¹ Additionally, the city has expanded distribution channels for Narcan, making it available in pharmacies, harm reduction

⁶ Strang J, McDonald R. 2016. Review of Are Take-Home Naloxone Programmes Effective? Systematic Review Utilizing Application of the Bradford Hill Criteria. *Addiction* 2016. 2016.

⁷ Jasinski DR, Martin WR, Haertzen CA. The human pharmacology and abuse potential of N-allylnoroxymorphone (naloxone). *J Pharmacol Exp Ther* 1967; 157: 420–426.

⁸ Borras MC, Becerra L, Ploghaus A, et al. fMRI measurement of CNS responses to naloxone infusion and subsequent mild noxious thermal stimuli in healthy volunteers. *J Neurophysiol* 2004; 91: 2723–2733.

⁹ Cohen MR, Cohen RM, Pickar D, et al. Behavioural effects after high dose naloxone administration to normal volunteers. *Lancet* 1981; 2: 1110.

¹⁰ McDonald R, Strang J. Are take-home naloxone programmes effective? Systematic review utilizing application of the Bradford Hill criteria. *Addiction* 2016; 111: 1177–1187.

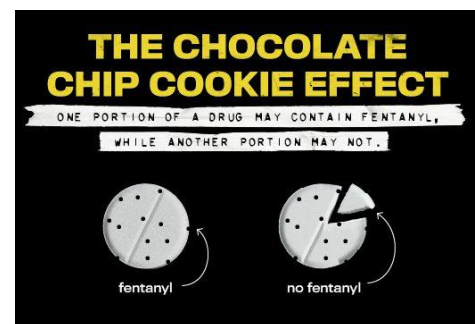
¹¹ LeSaint KT, Montoy JCC, Silverman EC, Raven MC, Schow SL, Coffin PO, Brown JF, Mercer MP. n.d. Review of Implementation of a Leave-behind Naloxone Program in San Francisco. *West J Emerg Med*. Accessed February 8, 2024.

centers, and outreach programs. As of September 2023, all Bay Area Walgreens and CVS pharmacies carry Narcan with no prescription necessary. Narcan is also covered by Medi-Cal, Medicare, and other medical insurance companies in the United States.¹²

DRUG TESTING STRIPS

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) are a low-cost method of helping prevent drug overdoses and reducing harm. FTS are small strips of paper that can detect the presence of fentanyl in all different kinds of drugs and drug forms (pills, powder, and injectables). Originally developed for urinalysis, FTS has been shown to be effective at detecting the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl-analogs in drug samples prior to ingestion.¹³

Most fentanyl test strips are between 96% to nearly 100% accurate in detecting the presence of even small amounts of fentanyl. However, it's possible to test a portion that does not contain fentanyl while the rest contains a potentially lethal amount, known as the “chocolate chip cookie effect.” An FTS will detect fentanyl within 5 minutes of testing, allowing the user to be informed right away of the contents in the substance.¹⁴



Individual FTS cost about \$1 each. FTS has a shelf life of two years from the manufacturer's date. There is also no evidence that test strips increase drug use.¹⁵

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

In the 2022-2023 Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priorities, commissioners urged the implementation and funding of Narcan programs in all San Francisco schools to expand harm-reduction measures.

¹² “San Francisco Breaks Overdose Record. How to Reverse One.” 2023. The San Francisco Standard. November 17, 2023. <http://sfstandard.com/2023/11/17/overdose-reversal-narcan-guide>.

¹³

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FentanylTestStrips_FAQs.pdf

¹⁴ "Fentanyl Test Strips: A Harm Reduction Strategy." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last modified September 30, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/fentanyl-test-strips.html>.

¹⁵ González, Laura López. "Can a Simple Fentanyl Test Curb San Francisco's Overdose Crisis?" University of San Francisco. Last modified September 27, 2023. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2023/09/426261/can-simple-fentanyl-test-curb-san-franciscos-overdose-crisis>.

Commissioners have been speaking with public school students of San Francisco to learn of the varying experiences with Narcan education in schools. Some students point out that though schools are able to provide Narcan, there are instances in which schools will only allow Narcan to be used on campus when overdoses are more likely to occur off-campus, and many students remain hesitant to use and carry Narcan for fear that “it is a drug” rather than a life-saving device.

Commissioners have also inquired with the Office of Overdose Prevention in the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) to learn that DPH is working with the San Francisco Unified School District to ensure that school nurses have naloxone. DPH has also been funding youth specific programs that provide overdose prevention education and naloxone, but did not specify which youth programs these were and what the overdose prevention education entailed.

CONCLUSION

We reaffirm the urgency and importance of harm reduction as emphasized by the 2022-2023 Youth Commission’s Budget and Policy Priority #12. With the increase in accidental drug overdoses in San Francisco especially among teens, it is only imperative that more preventative measures are taken such as ensuring that every student is able to access a comprehensive drug education and tools such as Fentanyl Testing Strips and Naloxone that may save many young lives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) **Encourage the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to reform the health educational curriculum** - to include comprehensive drug education about drug usage and its risks, including the proper and effective use of Narcan and drug testing strips.
- 2) **Establish and encourage widespread access to Narcan and drug testing strips and proper usage in public and independent schools across the city** - to do the same in hopes of preventing opioid overdoses and promoting safer drug use practices among students.
- 3) **Collaborate with community organizations specializing in drug education to engage youth through social media and other platforms** - to foster open dialogue and greater awareness about the dangers of fentanyl and fake prescription medication.

- **STATS TO EMPHASIZE:**

- Fentanyl overdose deaths amongst youth
 - “Fentanyl was involved in the vast [majority of all teen overdose deaths](#) – 84% – in 2021, and the problem has been growing. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), fentanyl-related adolescent overdose deaths nearly tripled from 2019 to 2021.”
- Medication usage amongst youth (How much do youth use Adderall, Xanax, and other drugs that may be at risk of having fentanyl?)
- Increase of Drug Usage amongst students
- History of Narcan
 - Developed in 1960s
 - “historically used only by trained clinical professionals for the reversal of opioid overdose in an emergency or inpatient setting.”
- Success Rate of Narcan
 - “Efficacy of reversal following naloxone administration by laypersons is high, having been reported at 75–100%,³ and in general take-home naloxone programs are considered effective for reducing opioid-overdose mortality.”
 - Prevent misinformation from being spread
- State Legislation about Narcan Grants
- SFUSD provide more education/reform their education on drugs usage
- General access in public and independent schools for NARCAN or drug testing strips as a preventive measure
 - How to properly use NARCAN
 - How to use drug testing strips
 - <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2018/low-tech-low-cost-test-strips-show-promise-for-reducing-fentanyl-overdoses>
 - Where to access drugs safely (ie. via pharmacy instead of online)
 - Dismantle stigma of drug use (ie. fentanyl can be found in Adderall and Xanax as well)
 - Ask students to turn in pills bought online, and reimburse, no questions asked to schools
 - [As more teens overdose on fentanyl, schools face a drug crisis unlike any other.](#)
 - Make drug education mandatory

- Reach out to organizations focused on educating about drugs, via social media or other methods
- The latest research from the CDC found there were bystanders present at two thirds of teen overdose deaths. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7150a2.htm#:~>
- And in schools across the country, drug education is ad-hoc, not standardized and oftentimes outdated. ([As more teens overdose on fentanyl, schools face a drug crisis unlike any other](#))
- Encourage schools to apply for Narcan
- Pharmacies charge for Narcan
- Drug Testing Strips - \$1 each
- Narcan - \$130 for two doses
- PEOPLE TO TALK TO:
 - DPH, Avi

Support efforts to increase access to fentanyl test strips and other drug-checking supplies for the purpose of harm reduction.

URGING THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO IMPROVING LANGUAGE ACCESS SUPPORT FOR SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENTS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support the improvement of language accessibility throughout the city of San Francisco by providing funding for the Office of Engagement and Immigrant Action, English as a Second Language (ESL) and foreign language classes, and additional translation resources.

BACKGROUND

The United States has a long history of attracting immigrants with immigrants making up about 26% of the population. California alone is home to almost 11 million immigrants¹, a quarter of the immigrant population in the United States. 1 in 3 San Francisco residents is an immigrant. This makes San Francisco one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse cities in the country. While the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a drop in San Francisco's population, the city's population is once again recovering, slowly growing larger. In the city of San Francisco, a safe-haven city, 34.1% of the 815,201 inhabitants of San Francisco are immigrants.² Out of the immigrant population in San Francisco, 10%, or 27,831 of them are students, 48.5% speak English less than "very well", and 38% are unemployed or not in the labor force. Within that, 18.1% of them are "limited English proficient" speakers, meaning their primary language is not English and their ability to speak English is quite limited.³ These languages range from but are not limited to Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, and many more. Though accessibility to foreign language services such as translators, classes, and more has proven to be quite limited. Not only do immigrants make up more than one-third of the population in San Francisco, but San Francisco has the 4th largest immigrant population⁴ in the United States, meaning that as the San Francisco Youth Commission and San Francisco citywide, it is our responsibility to serve, support, uplift, and accommodate our immigrant communities.

English as a second language or ESL classes and foreign language classes have proven to be useful for LEP speakers but they have also proven to be a challenge to some difficulty with accessibility whether that be location or language. ESL and Foreign Language Classes are especially important in a city like San Francisco as there are around 109 languages spoken in the city.

¹ Person, Cesar Alesi Perez, Marisol Cuellar Mejia, and Hans Johnson. "Immigrants in California." Public Policy Institute of California. Public Policy Institute of California, January 24, 2023. <https://www.ppic.org/publication/immigrants-in-california/>.

² "Language Access," OCEIA, https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WXj5gjrSgvoMDejWzP_LrOLJ60ZFVQk_.

³ "Language Access".

⁴ "Cities with the Largest Immigrant Populations." Background Checks.org. Accessed January 23, 2023. https://backgroundchecks.org/cities-largest-immigrant-population.html#4_San_Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley_CA.

Foreign Language Classes

Foreign language classes in San Francisco have been at risk of receiving budget cuts or being cut entirely. For example, in 2021, the Cantonese program at City College was at risk of facing elimination from the college's provided classes. This was due to a lack of enrollment and the Cantonese classes did not offer certificates on completion. Cantonese is the language most commonly spoken by the Chinese community in San Francisco. According to City College Trustee⁵, Alan Wong, "Saving the Cantonese program is not only about protecting Chinese culture, language, and history. It is also about the very practical need to ensure that our very large Cantonese-speaking Chinese community has access to public safety, health care, and social services". Furthermore, Self-Help for the Elderly president and CEO Anni Chung said, "Helping the younger generation become bilingual will close the communication gaps our seniors face". Fortunately, City College Trustee, Alan Wong, and 20 Asian organizations were able to spearhead a proposal to save the Cantonese program at CCSF that passed in January of 2022.



Another example of foreign language programs being at risk in San Francisco is the Longfellow Elementary Tagalog program. In 2022, the Tagalog program at Longfellow Elementary was at risk of severe downsizing by combining the kindergarten and 1st-grade classes, essentially cutting the number of spots in the program in half, which would not be able to accommodate the large Filipino population at Longfellow. Furthermore, only 2 schools provide Tagalog instruction in SFUSD (Bessie Carmichael and Longfellow) and with the downsizing of the Tagalog program at Longfellow, access to Tagalog instruction would also dwindle. According to Nikki Santiago⁶, an SFUSD parent, immigrant, and community organizer, "This program has really helped my child blossom into the person that she is. She used to be very, very reserved and now she's not just a proud American, but she's a proud Filipino". Additionally, Longfellow Elementary alumnus Matthew James Mingoa shared⁷, "I learned a lot about my history and culture from all the after-school programs and from WLES". This program not only taught about Filipino history, culture, and language but also helped connect Filipino students to their roots and their immigrant



⁵ Service, Wire. "Cantonese Language Classes in Jeopardy at CCSF." San Francisco Examiner, June 16, 2022. <http://www.sfexaminer.com/fixed/cantonese-language-classes-in-jeopardy-at-ccsf/>.

⁶ McEvoy, Julia. "SF Filipino Community Mobilizes to Preserve Unique Elementary School Language Program." KQED, July 1, 2022. <https://www.kqed.org/news/11918252/sf-filipino-community-mobilizes-to-preserve-unique-elementary-school-language-program>.

⁷ ABS-CBN News, and Rommel Conclara | TFC News San Francisco. "Filipino Education Program in SF Marks 10 Years of Inspiring Youth." ABS. ABS-CBN News, December 15, 2022. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/15/22/filipino-education-program-in-sf-marks-10-years-of-inspiring-youth>.

families. Through the mobilizing from parents, the cap on the program was lifted, creating more spots for more students to have access to this life-changing program.

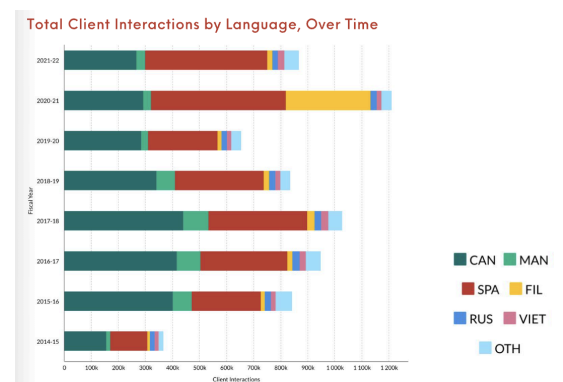
Balboa High School is located in the Excelsior District and is also one of the very few high schools in the country to provide a Filipino world language program. The program provides Filipino 1-3 in which all students can enroll while fulfilling the SFUSD world language A-G requirements. This program teaches students about different dialects of the Philippines, but due to Tagalog being the most common, this results in most of the material being taught in Tagalog. Students in this program also participate in field trips that dive into Filipino culture and history, such as going into the SOMA district to learn about historical Filipino landmarks and figures. At the end of the year, the program would hold a Kamayan, a gathering of people eating that is a popular hand-in-hand celebration in the Philippines, to bring all of the classes together. Many Balboa students have expressed their gratitude for this program and wish to have it offered in other schools as well.

Language Access in City Departments

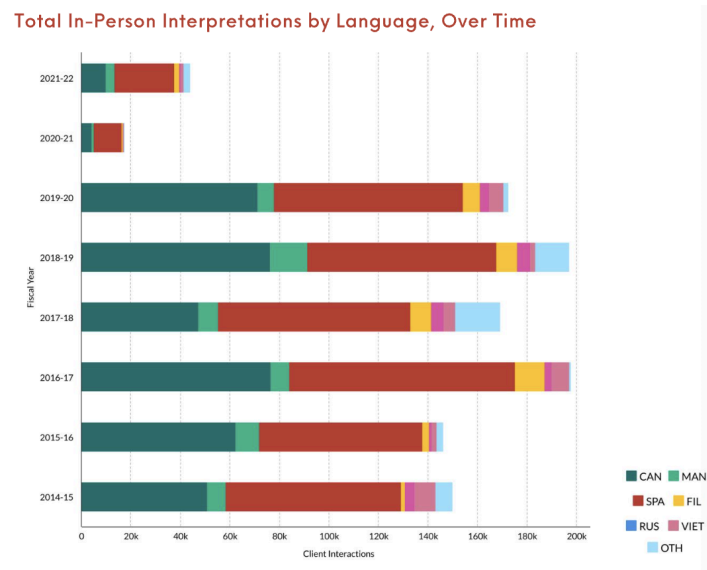
The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) has worked diligently to ensure language accessibility throughout city departments. Their efforts include the following:

- Intentionally operating in neighborhoods with large populations of immigrants
- Providing learning opportunities through the San Francisco Fellows program and community ambassadorship
- Ensuring that city information, programs, and essential information are accessible especially to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals
- Conducts annual training towards language access

The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs has emphasized the rising staff turnover rates, affecting the capacity of city departments to prioritize language access initiatives. Regrettably, only a limited number of organizations currently possess the resources to provide language access services to native speakers. Additionally, OCEIA's language interpretation services mainly focus on San Francisco's threshold languages (Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino) as well as a few commonly spoken languages in the city such as Vietnamese and Russian. Unfortunately, this leaves many languages underrepresented in city-provided translation services. For instance, many native Latin American



languages which are predominantly spoken by newly arriving immigrants from Latin America often don't have translation support services. This causes families to rely on their children for interpretation services even though they themselves are also just beginning to learn English. To combat this issue, OCEIA provides funding to local organizations (such as Asociacion Mayab) to provide interpretation services to their communities as well as promoting services such as Language Line, encouraging city departments to use them.



Language Line Solutions

The company called Language Line Solutions, offers a service in which city vendors provide translation services as well as both real-time video and audio interpretations. According to their website, they claim to offer over 380 languages and dialects, which helps mitigate the issue of not having in-person translators for certain less spoken languages in the city.

Many city employees are unaware of this resource, therefore highlighting the need to promote and advocate for its utilization.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

On January 3rd, 2022, City College Trustee, Alan Wong, presented to the Youth Commission and requested that we support the resolution to save the Cantonese classes at CCSF and to write a letter of support. All Youth Commissioners present at that meeting voted to support this resolution.

During the 2021-2022 term, Commissioners Asfaw, Santos, Listana, Shaw, Catubig, Foley, and Pimentel, established the Transformative Justice & Immigration Workgroup. One of the main priorities of this Workgroup was immigration, and Commissioners worked towards writing a resolution to expand support services for undocumented immigrants. To educate themselves more on this topic, Commissioners reached out to many organizations in San Francisco that worked with undocumented immigrants to hear more about the issues that they face. On February 28th, 2022, the Transformative Justice and Immigration Workgroup heard a presentation from La Raza, an organization that provides legal services to undocumented immigrants to educate themselves more on the issues they face.

On December 15, 2023, Commissioners Ye and Listana met with Executive Director Jorge Rivas and Policy and Civic Engagement Officer Chloe Noonan of OCEIA. During the discussion, Commissioners learned that despite the implementation of liaisons for language access within city departments, there has been high staff turnover, and many city departments are not prioritizing language access. These liaisons require mandatory training with OCEIA, in addition to internal training within city departments. For native and less-spoken languages, OCEIA encourages city departments to turn to work with language service vendors and a broad network of translators via a language line.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) **Provide increased financial support for ESL and foreign language programs in both SFUSD and CCSF** - to better address the educational and linguistic needs of San Francisco's immigrant communities.
- 2) **Lower the threshold of the amount of people required to speak a language in order to receive required translation services from 10,000 people to 6,000 people** – to be more inclusive of other languages and reaffirm the importance of language-accessible services for native speakers.
- 3) **Expand translation and interpretation training and services across city departments** - to ensure equitable communication with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) residents and promote greater inclusivity in government services.
- 4) **Strengthen outreach initiatives to educate city residents about places to report language access issues** - empowering them to advocate for fair language access.
- 5) **Provide additional funding to the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to conduct comprehensive translation and interpretation training for city staff** - to promote better language access for immigrant communities.

- 6) **Provide additional funding to the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to promote funding for more local organizations that provide language and immigration services to underserved communities - to promote better language access for immigrant communities.**

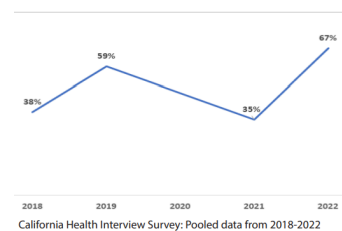
URGING THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO COMBAT FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to provide more funding to programs meant to combat food and nutritional insecurity, especially in low-income, communities of color such as Bayview-Hunters Point and the Tenderloin in order to mitigate the health, developmental, and psychological effects caused by these issues.

BACKGROUND

Food insecurity and lack of access to nutritional foods is one of San Francisco's leading social determinants of poor health outcomes, especially among low-income and predominantly communities of color. According to the 2022 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), food insecurity increased by 32% low-income residents with household incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the highest since they started collecting food security data in 2001¹. Additionally, according to the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Report published by the San Francisco Health Improvement Project, 50% of low-income residents in San Francisco reported to be food insecure. The 2022 CHIS also reported that two-thirds (67%) of adults in San Francisco below 200% of the FPL are food insecure². This is in stark contrast to the overall national percentages of households that are food insecure, with only 12.5% of households being food insecure. Food insecurity is associated with an increased risk for multiple chronic health conditions such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, mental health disorders, and other chronic conditions³.

Figure 3: Percent of Food Insecurity Among San Francisco Residents Below 200% FPL, 2018-2022



Food insecurity disproportionately affects youth, who face the brunt of the health effects caused by food insecurity. According to the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Report published by the San Francisco Health Improvement Project, 50% of SFUSD students qualify for free or reduced lunches in schools, with schools often being the main source for nutritious meals for many students⁴. Not only do young people lack access to regular meals due to not always

¹ Department of Health, San Francisco. 2023. "2023 San Francisco Biennial Food Security and Equity Report." SFGov. <https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023%20San%20Francisco%20Biennial%20Food%20Security%20and%20Equity%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

² Department of Health, San Francisco. 2023. "2023 San Francisco Biennial Food Security and Equity Report." SFGov. <https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023%20San%20Francisco%20Biennial%20Food%20Security%20and%20Equity%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

³ Zenk, Shannon N., Lawrence A. Tabak, Eliseo J. Pérez, and Joseph Keawe. 2023. "Food Accessibility, Insecurity and Health Outcomes." National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health-outcomes.html#chartHouseholds>

⁴ "San Francisco Community Health Needs Assessment." 2019. Department of Public Health. https://www.sfdph.org/dph/hc/HCAgen/2019/May%207/CHNA_2019_Report_041819_Stage%204.pdf

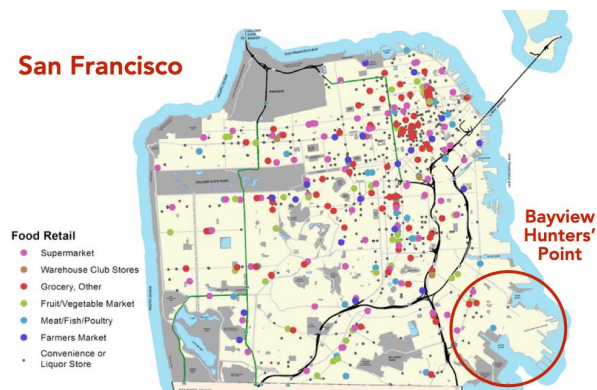
being able to afford to eat, they also lack access to nutritional food, with 2 in 3 youth not eating 5 servings of fresh fruit and vegetables daily. Furthermore, food security programs meant to serve youth do not effectively serve their needs. For example, 70% of eligible students do not participate in the Summer Lunch Program, cutting off access to yet another secure, free meal that they may otherwise not have had access to. Additionally, according to the Food Security Task Force, 39% to 83% of city funded program participants experienced food insecurity⁵. According to Feeding America, childhood food insecurity can lead to not only adverse health effects such as higher risk of having conditions such as anemia and asthma, but also poorer academic performance and behavioral issues⁶.

Bayview-Hunters Point

According to the San Francisco Standard and the 2022 Census' American Community Survey, the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood had the largest amount of African American/Black people living in a San Francisco neighborhood, with around 10,558 African American/Black residents⁷. Bayview-Hunters Point is also one of the neighborhoods most impacted by food insecurity and lack of access to nutritional

food in San Francisco. For instance, Bayview-Hunters Point is classified as a food desert, which according to the USDA is “a low-income tract with at least 500 people, or 33 percent of the population, living more than 1 mile (urban areas)...from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store”⁸. According to the San Francisco

Examiner, there are only two existing large-scale grocers in Bayview-Hunters Point (Grocery Outlet and Foods Co.), which not only is inaccessible for many families, but neither of these stores meet the needs of the community, especially when it comes to offering fresh produce and a range of options for ingredients⁹. If residents wanted to access healthier grocery options, they would often have to drive far away as there aren't many options for reliable public transportation. This means more money for gas and more experience producing.



⁵ Department of Health, San Francisco. 2023. “2023 San Francisco Biennial Food Security and Equity Report.” SFGov. <https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023%20San%20Francisco%20Biennial%20Food%20Security%20and%20Equity%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>.

⁶ “Child Hunger in America.” n.d. Feeding America. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/child-hunger-facts>.

⁷ Tsai, Jiyun. 2022. “New Census Data Maps Show Demographics of SF Neighborhoods.” The San Francisco Standard. <https://sfstandard.com/2022/12/08/san-francisco-neighborhood-new-census-data-maps/>.

⁸ “Documentation.” 2022. USDA ERS. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/documentation/>.

⁹ Graf, Carly. 2021. “San Francisco's Bayview district struggles to emerge from food desert.” San Francisco Examiner. https://www.sfoxaminer.com/archives/san-francisco-s-bayview-district-struggles-to-emerge-from-food-desert/article_f8cddb4b-9594-57d0-9700-c71b2f24e345.html.

This is often an unaffordable expense for many in the neighborhood, as the poverty level in the 94124 ZIP code is the 6th highest in the city at 18%. Additionally, according to the Food Security Task Force's Biennial Food Security & Equity Report, Bayview/Hunters Point also has the largest gap between its median household income and the self sufficiency standard, with the gap being -\$76,167 (\$42,591 vs. \$112,125 for a household of 4)¹⁰. This causes families to turn to cheaper, often healthier options for food such as corner stores, gas stations, and fast food.

The lack of not only affordable food, but nutritional food in Bayview-Hunters Point has caused adverse health effects, especially towards the African American/Black population. According to the Food Security Task Force's Biennial Food Security & Equity Report¹¹, the 94124 ZIP code had one of the highest rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease hospitalizations in San Francisco. Furthermore, African American/Black residents experienced the greatest diet-related disease burden and have the shortest life expectancies. This issue especially affects youth, as Gina Frommer, CEO of the San Francisco Children's Council, stated, "We see kids coming into centers hungry. Children that are hungry do not learn. Children that are hungry are angry". Young people in the Bayview-Hunters Point not only have to worry about when their next meal will be coming, but also have to worry about their studies, often hampering their education in the process.

Some community alternatives to combating food insecurity without relying on large-scale grocers such as Whole Foods that often do not want to do business in the neighborhood due to weak sales have popped up. Some examples of this include the Florence Fang Community Farm's Bayview Black Organic Farmers Program, Bayview Community Co-Op, and Southeast Community Center Farmers' Market. These community alternatives have not only brought fresh, affordable produce to the neighborhood, but has also supported the local community through teaching sustainable agricultural practices, supporting Black-owned businesses, accepting EBT, providing cooking classes, and more. However, these community alternatives unfortunately lack the scale and funding to serve the whole neighborhood, and the lasting effects of the lack of nutritional and overall food security demonstrate this need.

The Tenderloin

The Tenderloin neighborhood's population consists of a majority of low-income, people of color who have limited access to resources and government support. This is due to the perception that this neighborhood is seen as crime-ridden and dangerous, which is often exacerbated by being overlooked by government resources. With this neighborhood having some of the highest rates of poverty in San Francisco at 19%, many residents rely on corner stores or fast food places to eat. Additionally, the Tenderloin has no full-scale grocery stores, which means that if they could

¹⁰ "Biennial Food Security & Equity Report Presentation of Select Data." 2023. City of San Francisco. https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/FSTF_BFSER%20Data%20Briefing_10-4-23.pdf.

¹¹ "Biennial Food Security & Equity Report Presentation of Select Data." 2023. City of San Francisco. https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/FSTF_BFSER%20Data%20Briefing_10-4-23.pdf.

afford fresh produce, they would have to travel outside the neighborhood, creating even more costs through cars, gas, and public transportation. This has caused the Tenderloin, otherwise known as ZIP code 94102, to have some of the highest rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease hospitalizations in the city, which is double the average. This is a result of poverty, lack of affordable and nutritious food, and the Tenderloin being a food desert.

Organizations such as St. Anthony's and the People's Garden in the Tenderloin offer nutritious and affordable/free options to battle the food deserts. St. Anthony's offers daily hot meals 7 days a week, serving over 1,000 guests daily. Their meals are nutritious, delicious, and free. The People's Garden was built in 2010 with the goal of building a more equitable food system. This garden grows fresh produce by the community to help provide more access to nutrients rather than fast food. However, similarly to the community alternatives established in the Bayview, they alone cannot serve the entire need of the Tenderloin, especially families. Additionally, these effects cause adverse effects on youth through behavioral issues, developmental issues, and lower educational outcomes compared to youth in other parts of the city.

Shelters

Another often overlooked aspect when it comes to food and nutritional food insecurity is shelters. Many shelters that are meant to support families in the city are supported by the city government. However, when it comes to meals, many shelters receive varying amounts of funding, causing many families and children, especially those from predominantly low-income communities of color, to not have access to nutritional meals.

For example, the Buena Vista Horace-Mann school also serves as a temporary family shelter when not in session. One of the resources they provide is free breakfast and dinner for all families staying there. Although the shelter projected to get \$3.00 per meal, the meals are actually costing the shelter \$3.50 each. Additionally, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) only provides funding for \$1.50 per meal, forcing the shelter to figure out how to fund the other \$2.00. Due to the lack of funding and having to turn to other community resources such as non-profit funds, the shelter isn't able to provide the most nutritional meals. In addition, they get no funding for snacks for the children staying at the shelter, which makes it even harder to keep kids fed and healthy. Without access to nutritional meals and snacks, many children face developmental and educational issues.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

On November 16th, 2023, the San Francisco Youth Commission held a listening session for SFUSD students from Districts 9 and 11 to hear their thoughts on what the Student Success Fund should be spent on. Many students at the listening session mentioned better food options for

lunches, especially when it comes to a wider variety and culturally conscious food options. For example, according to the Mission Local¹², at the listening session, “Henry [a student] said he wanted burritos at lunch. Brean and Alan, also Spanish-speaking students at San Francisco International High School, and Morales [their translator], agreed.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) Provide additional funding and support to community and neighborhood initiatives**
- that combat food insecurity such as community gardens, farmers markets, food pantries, and more
- 2) Increase outreach and funding for city-funded food support programs**
- 3) Provide additional funding to the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Housing Support to support family shelters by investing in meals for families**
- 4) Provide more nutritious and culturally relevant food options in SFUSD schools**
- 5) Invest in neighborhoods most impacted by food and nutritional insecurity by providing culturally relevant food options**

¹² Yang, Junyao. 2023. “With new funding to SFUSD, youth wants better food among others.” Mission Local. <https://missionlocal.org/2023/11/with-new-funding-to-sfusd-youth-wants-better-school-food-among-other-needs/>.

REDUCING WEAPON ACCESS TO YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support youth violence prevention efforts towards reducing weapons access to youth in San Francisco.

BACKGROUND:

In San Francisco, California, owners of handguns must obey the following law in accordance with SEC.4512: “handgun owners can keep their weapons at home but must keep them locked in safes or disabled by trigger locks when not using them”.¹ Despite this measure, it has been proven to not be enough as break-ins have allowed individuals to steal these so-called “locked and safe guns,” and take them to use or sell on the street. Additionally, youth who reside in residences with firearms are more likely to be able to access these weapons. 1 in 3 homes with children have guns, many of which are left unlocked or loaded.² Over the past 5 years, shootings in San Francisco have increased 74% with 158 people killed with firearms.³

In wake of the growing school shootings across the United States, the San Francisco Unified School district released a letter titled “Letter about Gun Safety to families” in August of 2023 detailing the continued and current gun crisis. They addressed guidelines to increase awareness of gun safety and stopping school shootings. These guidelines included storing guns securely by locking the weapon in a gun safe unloaded and having the ammunition locked separately; asking about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes of neighbors, families, and play dates; and recognizing the risk factors and warning signs of depression and suicide.⁴

On December 8th 2023, at George Washington High School and Galileo Academy of Science and technology, three students were found to have brought guns onto the campus (2 at Washington, and one at Galileo).⁵ However, it is important to note that these cases were only the

¹ "SEC. 4512. FIREARMS LOCATED IN ANY RESIDENCE TO BE KEPT IN A LOCKED CONTAINER OR DISABLED WITH A TRIGGER LOCK.," *American Legal Publishing*, last modified 2016, https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_police/0-0-0-8459#JD_4512

² Schaechter, Judy. 2022. “Guns in the Home.” *HealthyChildren.org*. November 11, 2022.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/at-home/pages/handguns-in-the-home.aspx>.

³ Sydney Johnson, "San Francisco Considers Banning Guns in More Public Places After Recent Shootings," *KQED*, 2023, <https://www.kqed.org/news/11952872/san-francisco-considers-banning-guns-in-more-public-places-after-recent-shootings>.

⁴ “Letter about Gun Safety to Families.” SFUSD, www.sfusd.edu/announcements/2023-08-16-letter-about-gun-safety-families#:~:text=The%20safety%20of%20students%20and,measures%20in%20place%20at%20schools. Accessed 15 Feb. 2024.

⁵ Megan Fan Munce, "S.F. police: Three students brought guns to two highschools," *S.F. Chronicle* (San Francisco, CA), December 8, 2023, accessed February 7, 2024, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/s-f-police-three-students-brought-guns-friday-18543000.php>.

ones that had been caught, as community organizers point out there are weapons on school campuses brought by students every day.

Between March 2022 and April 2023, of 100 student conflicts on and off San Francisco school campuses, 31 of those conflicts involved guns.⁶ For youth, weapons have been proven to be easy in access. The United States has more civilian-owned guns per capita than any country in the world, with 120.5 guns per 100 residents.⁷ Though many youth in possession of a weapon list protection as their primary reason leading to questions over why youth feel unsafe in their current environments and would need a weapon to issue that kind of protection.

Factors including social media and mental health have been used to justify the lack of safety students feel in their environments. In November 2023, the Youth Commission organized a listening session for Districts 9 and 11 on the Student Success Fund, a measure approved by voters in November 2022 that would ensure funding for schools towards improving academic success, and social and emotional wellness for students. At this listening session, students requested for more mental health services amongst other requests.



YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

In January 2023, the Youth Commission took a tour of United Playaz, a San Francisco-based violence prevention and youth development organization located in the heart of South of Market (SoMa). On this tour, Commissioners visited different facilities of the organization and spoke with United Playaz founder, Rudy Corpuz Jr. Founded in 1994, United Playaz offers a range of services, including, but not limited to, in-school aid, afterschool programs, case-management, and workforce training. The organization offers a 7 out of 10 success rate amongst guiding at-risk youth. A former SoMa gang member himself at the age of 12, Rudy recalls the significance of being able to access weapons, saying, “when we would break-in to homes, we looked for three things: money, jewelry, and guns.” He then explained that the guns would be used to commit additional crimes.



⁶<https://sfstandard.com/2023/05/08/youth-violence-has-rocked-san-francisco-this-spring-where-does-the-city-go-from-here/>

⁷<https://theconversation.com/how-does-a-child-become-a-shooter-research-suggests-easy-access-to-guns-and-exposure-to-screen-violence-increase-the-risk-197597>

In 2014, United Playaz instituted an annual Gun Buyback Program with the goal of reducing the number of weapons on the streets. In exchange for payment, people can turn in a handgun for \$100 and an assault rifle for \$200, no questions asked. The guns are then melted down and the parts are used for jewelry and other products that help finance later gun buy-backs. Since its implementation, the program has yielded over 2500 weapons. When Commissioners asked of the impact of the gun-buybacks, Rudy affirmed “one gun off the streets can save a lot of people” as he pointed towards a mural commemorating victims of gun violence.

CONCLUSION

It is necessary to combat youth violence and the accessibility of weapons in the city of San Francisco. Current efforts have been proven to not be enough as we have seen weapons brought onto educational facilities, hindering the ability for students to feel safe at their schools. Students have been calling for more mental health resources and support, and it is important that these calls are not ignored. In order to support the safety and mental well-being of youth, we must raise awareness towards gun violence, and provide counter measures to reduce youth violence and take weapons off the streets and out of the hands of youth of San Francisco.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors to:

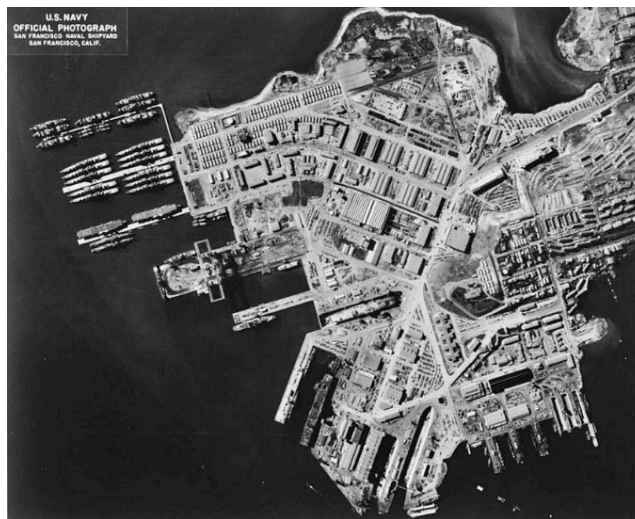
- 1) **Continue to fund City Departments and CBO's that support youth and provide youth violence prevention and development** - the Youth Commission supports continued funding and support for City Departments, CBOs, and programs such as the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families; United Playaz; Peace Parks; and more; who provide a comprehensive range of services to prepare vulnerable youth for healthy living in a safe, nurturing, and collaborative environment.
- 2) **Partner with Gun Buy-Backs and Weapon Trade-Ins** - to stop gun violence by providing a place for people to turn in weapons for payment, with no questions asked, and get guns off the streets and out of our communities.
- 3) **Ensure the implementation of appropriate safety measures** - such as making sure that families are able to receive information regarding safe firearm storage annually; youth are able to easily access mental health resources and help; and that firearms are kept off of campuses.

URGING SAN FRANCISCO TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION IN ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS IN BAYVIEW HUNTER POINT

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to stay accountable in addressing the community and health effects caused by environmental damages such as contamination of the land and water of the Shipyard as well as worse health outcomes in Bayview Hunters Point.

BACKGROUND

The Bayview neighborhood in San Francisco has a rich and complex history, deeply intertwined with immigration, military presence, and environmental concerns. Originally a predominantly immigrant neighborhood, the Bayview has undergone significant transformations due to its proximity to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.



In 1946, the United States conducted Operation Crossroads, which were atom bomb tests in the Pacific that went wrong, leaving the Navy with dozens of vessels contaminated by radioactive fallout. In order to decontaminate the vessels, they were sent to a laboratory at Hunters Point that developed a technique for decontamination. This led the laboratory at Hunters Point to become the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, which was the site for extensive radiological experimentation and research as well as a hub for the disposal of radioactive waste. The United States Navy's occupation and operation of the Hunters Point Shipyard, combined with its subsequent closure in 1974, has left behind a legacy of environmental contamination. This has made it the most polluted Superfund site in

San Francisco. In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) due to hazardous waste and pollution.¹



On June 14th 2022, the Civil Grand Jury released a report on the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard and the environmental impacts both on the area and on the people in Bayview Hunters Point. In this report, they cited a 2018 Bayview Hunters Point Community Assessment from the San Francisco Department of Public Health which found that residents of the Bayview Hunters Point are significantly more at risk of health and environmental catastrophes than other neighborhoods. According to this assessment, 27% of the neighborhood is situated within a quarter-mile of a contamination risk. Bayview Hunters Point residents also have worse health outcomes, higher maternal deaths, twice the rate of breast cancer, and three times more “preventable hospitalizations” than other San Franciscans.²

In response to growing concerns about the contamination left behind from the shipyard, San Francisco residents mobilized and demanded action. In 2000 and 2001, Proposition P was passed which declared the city's commitment to clean the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard of toxic contamination to be suitable for residential living. However, the actual execution of this policy has faced numerous challenges, including the discovery of radioactive materials during routine testing in December of 2023 which has complicated cleanup efforts and raised doubts about the feasibility of residential development on the site.³

Moreover, the Bayview neighborhood has grappled with systemic issues such as redlining which started in 1937, which historically disproportionately affected predominantly Black and Brown

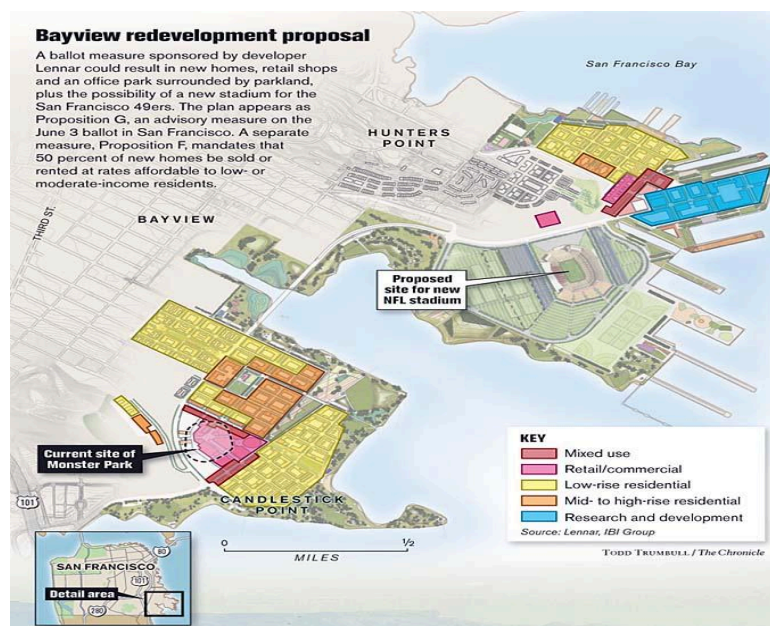
¹ “CAMP LEJEUNE MILITARY RES. (USNAVY) Site Profile.” Cumulis.epa.gov, cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0403185#:~:text=The%20EPA%20placed%20Camp%20Lejeune. Accessed 7 Feb. 2024.

² “Hunters Point, SLR Report, FINAL CORRECTED (6.13.22).” 2022. San Francisco Civil Grand Jury. https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2021_2022/2022%20CGJ%20Report_Buried%20Problems%20and%20a%20Buried%20Process%20-%20The%20Hunters%20Point%20Naval%20Shipyards%20in%20a%20Time%20of%20Climate%20Change.pdf.

³ “Radioactive Objects Found at San Francisco’s Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Raise New Concerns.” KQED, 7 Dec. 2023, www.kqed.org/science/1985646/radioactive-object-found-at-san-franciscos-hunters-point-naval-shipyards-raises-new-concerns.

residents.⁴ Redlining has single-handedly exacerbated economic disparities and perpetuated cycles of poverty. Studies have found that racially segregated neighborhoods from redlining are less likely to have access to such green spaces and are more likely to experience noise pollution, poorer air quality, and lower incomes.⁵ This has underscored the intersection of environmental justice and socio-economic challenges faced by its residents.

Despite these challenges, San Francisco has since pursued plans to redevelop the Hunters Point Shipyard and Bayview neighborhood, envisioning a new community filled with a mix of industrial, residential, and cultural buildings. The plans included the building of more than 12,000 homes, 300 acres of parkland and millions of square feet of schools, and retail and office space.⁶ These aspirations to revitalize the area have since faced criticism, particularly regarding the safety and suitability of building thousands of homes on a highly contaminated site that has not been properly cleaned up.



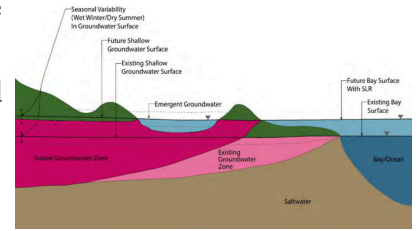
Furthermore, there are large concerns surrounding the impact of rising groundwater, as the land in which the shipyard is built on was constructed from a nearby hill that had been pulverized and dumped into the water. This allows water to easily seep into the ground and once enough water has filled below

⁴ Project, Anti-Eviction Mapping. “Bayview Hunters Point.” Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, antievictionmap.com/bayview-hunters-point.

⁵ Nardone A, Rudolph KE, Morello-Frosch R, Casey JA. Redlines and Greenspace: The Relationship between Historical Redlining and 2010 Greenspace across the United States. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2021 Jan;129(1):17006. doi: 10.1289/EHP7495. Epub 2021 Jan 27. PMID: 33502254; PMCID: PMC7839347.

⁶ Dineen, By J.K. “Bayview Residents Blast SF Officials over Shipyard Cleanup.” *San Francisco Chronicle*, www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Bayview-residents-blast-SF-officials-over-13159862.php. Accessed 7 Feb. 2024.

the land and causes underwater flooding, which is impossible to prevent by normal preventative measures such as sea walls. Those floodwaters could be poisoned with toxic metals and volatile organic compounds as the parcels in which the city wants to clean up contain toxic contaminants that have leaked into the water below. Additionally, new buildings that are built on this land are at risk of losing structural integrity and flooding due to an increased likelihood of the land going through liquefaction in the case of an



earthquake. According to the 2022 Grand Civil Jury Report, “These serious risks have not been accounted for by the Navy in designing its remedies. They have not been accounted for, either, by the other Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) signatories”. The Civil Grand Jury report provided a general overview of the Naval Shipyard in Bayview. It included its findings and recommendations on how the city can contain and remedy the solution for short and long-term benefits.⁷

In October 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed RESOLUTION No. 437-22 [Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - Buried Problems and a Buried Process: The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in a Time of Climate Change] in response to the Jury’s report.⁸⁹ Although the resolution passed, there were limits on the findings and recommendations from the Civil Grand Jury that the Board of Supervisors supported. They only agreed to respond to recommendations R2, R3, F4, F5, and F6. They explicitly denied responding to R7, stating: “By March 1st, 2023, the Hunters Point Shipyard Cleanup Oversight Committee should prepare a report on its recommended requests for the Federal Facility Agreement signatories based on the groundwater study recommended in R1, and deliver that report to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Department of Public Health.”¹⁰ The reason for not addressing this recommendation was unclear, however, they stated that they would create a short-term task force. Nevertheless, R1, R4, R5 and F1, F2, and F3 which focused on the reality of the harms caused by the Naval Shipyard, and go into depth on why thorough research is needed were not mentioned in the resolution. The entirety of the report must be adopted so beneficial change can happen.

The Bayview Hunters Point community is pushing for many other environmental and social initiatives, and the Naval Shipyard is only the beginning of their concerns. Two community organizations that are doing extensive work within the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood to address environmental and health concerns are the Marie Harrison Community Foundation and the Marin City Clinic. The Marie Harrison Community Foundation has worked with other community partners such as Greenaction to hold the city accountable on their efforts to fully clean up and revitalize the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. For instance, on Saturday, February 12, 2022, the Marie Harrison Community Foundation gathered over 50 families from the community to rally at City Hall to demand a full

⁷ “Hunters Point, SLR Report, FINAL CORRECTED (6.13.22).” 2022. San Francisco Civil Grand Jury. https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2021_2022/2022%20CGJ%20Report_Buried%20Problems%20and%20a%20Buried%20Process%20-%20The%20Hunters%20Point%20Naval%20Shipyard%20in%20a%20Time%20of%20Climate%20Change.pdf.

⁸ File No. 220721 RESOLUTION No. 437-22. (2022, October 6). <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0437-22.pdf>

⁹ “Investigate contaminated soil at Bayview Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.” n.d. San Francisco Chronicle. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/article/investigate-soil-at-bayview-hunters-point-shipyard-17578677.php>.

¹⁰ File No. 220721 RESOLUTION No. 437-22. (2022, October 6). <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0437-22.pdf>

cleanup of the toxic Hunters Point Shipyard.¹¹ Secondly, the Marin City Clinic's Bayview Hunters Point aims to provide accessible healthcare services for low-income families, especially African American families.¹² By providing them additional funding, they will be able to further combat many of the health issues caused by the contamination of the shipyard.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

The Youth Commission has previously written a Budget Policy Priority regarding the environmental damage in Bayview Hunters Point for the FY 2023-2024 and 2024 - 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) **Allocate resources to accelerate the cleanup efforts in the Bayview**, focusing on the removal of toxic contaminants and the establishment of robust monitoring systems to mitigate health risks for its residents.
- 2) **Implement the entirety of the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury report (including R1, R4, R5, R7, F1, F2, and F3)** - adequate environmental changes can be made for the benefit of all Bayview Hunters Point residents.
- 3) **Allocate resources to look into the effects of rising groundwater on cleanup and revitalization efforts** - ensuring that future residents of the shipyard and current residents of the neighborhood do not face future health and environmental effects due to dormant contaminants rising to the surface
- 4) **Allocate funding and resources to support the Marie Harrison Community Foundation** - in their efforts to address contamination issues and advocate for the wellbeing of residents in the Bayview community.
- 5) **Extend support to the Marin City Clinic** - to enhance accessibility to health care services for low-income families in the Bayview, mitigating health risks associated with its contamination.

¹¹ MOLANPHY, TOM. n.d. "Environmental Justice — Marie Harrison Community Foundation." Marie Harrison Community Foundation. <https://www.canwelve.org/environmental-justice>.

¹² "Health Equity – Marin City Clinic." n.d. Marin City Health and Wellness Center. <https://www.marincityclinic.org/marin-city-health-and-wellness-center/health-equity/>.

ADDRESS SAN FRANCISCO'S HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to address the City's acute housing shortage and become a more inviting and affordable home for young San Franciscans by exploring additional modifications to the Planning Code to facilitate expedited development, setting annual development targets on its journey toward meeting its 2022 Housing Element goal of building 82,000 new units by 2031, eliminate obstructive discretionary review procedures, and consider policies that will ensure enough affordable units are developed alongside market-rate ones.

Background:

San Francisco has long been a magnet for bright and ambitious young people hailing from across the globe. At the same time, it has served as a lifelong home for those born and raised in the city. Unfortunately, San Francisco's persistent housing shortage threatens its status as a prosperous economic hub and inviting place to live. While the city, largely at the behest of the state government, has set ambitious targets to increase its housing stock and alleviate the crisis, reaching those goals is far from guaranteed. Ultimately, failure to take decisive action will dampen the city's prospects for becoming a more vibrant, prosperous, and welcoming environment for Youth.

Ever since its rapid rise to prominence during the Gold Rush, San Francisco has had a long history of steep, oftentimes unaffordable housing prices.¹ Its location on a coastal peninsula made the sprawling expansion seen in many other American cities impractical, leaving a finite amount of land within city limits for housing which was mostly exhausted long ago. As of 2010, an outright majority of San Francisco's homes were over 70 years old, very unusual in the Western United States and reflective of the city's constrained geography.² Since then, growth in the housing stock has been sluggish, with only 3,500 units per year built between 2015 and 2021. In that same period, San Francisco ranked 10th out of 15 cities with similar populations in new units permitted per 100,000 residents, with Austin and Seattle more than three times as many units per capita.³ Moreover, San Francisco's job creation outstripped housing production by a 6.8 to 1 ratio between 2010 and 2015.⁴ This mismatch has created an unaffordable housing environment for low and middle-income San Franciscans. Families and young adults have been particularly affected by the housing shortage. With only 13 percent of its population under 18,

¹ Amy Copperman, "Has the cost of living in the Bay Area always been this high?" SF Gate, January 30, 2023
<https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/cost-living-san-francisco-17726528.php>

² Matt O'Brien, "Census: Berkeley, San Francisco, and Oakland has the oldest housing stock in the West," The Mercury News, October 6, 2010
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2010/10/06/census-berkeley-san-francisco-and-oakland-have-oldest-housing-stock-in-the-west/>

³ Adriana Rezal, Erin Caughey, The San Francisco Housing Crisis, San Francisco Chronicle, June 29, 2022,
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/fixing-san-francisco-problems/Housing>

⁴ Adriana Rezal, Erin Caughey, The San Francisco Housing Crisis, San Francisco Chronicle, June 29, 2022,
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/fixing-san-francisco-problems/Housing>

San Francisco is the most childless major American city.⁵ This is primarily because the housing shortage makes raising a family in an adequately-sized apartment or house impractical and unaffordable for many. Former Supervisor Norman Yee summed up the challenge in a 2017 policy briefing, where he wrote “San Francisco must reverse the trend and attract more families to live in San Francisco. When we lose our families, we lose part of what makes San Francisco a strong, vibrant community.”⁶

In addition, the aforementioned discrepancy between jobs and housing leaves many workers, including those who work for the city itself, unable to find affordable options within city limits. As of 2022, 58% of public workers live outside of San Francisco, a figure that has only increased over the decades.⁷ At best, this forces many people to embark on lengthy commutes, oftentimes by car. At worst, it drives people away from the San Francisco Bay Area entirely.

Current City Policy and Efforts:

San Francisco’s restrictive zoning laws are an important root cause of its current housing shortage, and altering city policy is a necessary first step toward a more affordable and accessible landscape. While San Francisco is the second-densest American city, its zoning regulations are not conducive to tightly-packed urban development. Current policy traces its roots back to 1921, when available land was far more widespread and the city’s social priorities were far different. In the October 2022 zoning code, 38% of total land and nearly two-thirds of all residential areas were outlined strictly for single-family homes.⁸ This longstanding legal preference for single-family homes created an artificial cap on the city’s total housing stock, with multi-family homes only allowed in certain residential neighborhoods and apartment buildings primarily confined to pockets on the city’s eastern side.

Recognizing the crisis, San Francisco has taken multiple important first steps in recent years, but these changes have not gone far enough. More importantly, legal changes must be followed up with actual development and construction. California Senate Bill 9 went into effect in 2022, and it allows property owners to more easily convert their single-family homes into multi-family ones. In addition, San Francisco followed up with legislation allowing fourplexes to be built on most residential lots and sixplexes on corner lots.⁹ While research concluded that SB 9 alone

⁵ Susie Nielson, ‘San Francisco is the most childless major city in the US,’ San Francisco Chronicle, May 24, 2022 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/fewest-kids-maps-17193677.php>

⁶ Susie Nielson, ‘San Francisco is the most childless major city in the US,’ San Francisco Chronicle, May 24, 2022 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/fewest-kids-maps-17193677.php>

⁷ Adriana Rezal, Sriharsha Devulapalli, ‘Most people who work for San Francisco don’t live in the city. Here’s why,’ San Francisco Chronicle, October 18, 2022 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/remote-work-17510522.php>

⁸ Sriharsha Devulapalli, ‘This map shows the parts of SF zoned for single-family homes,’ San Francisco Chronicle, January 9, 2023 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/sf-map-single-family-homes-17699820.php>

⁹ Sriharsha Devulapalli, ‘This map shows the parts of SF zoned for single-family homes,’ San Francisco Chronicle, January 9, 2023 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/sf-map-single-family-homes-17699820.php>

could facilitate the construction of up to 8,500 new units in San Francisco, the worry is that developers will not take advantage of the new policy.¹⁰ In the first year of implementation, only 30 projects related to SB 9 were proposed in San Francisco. Much of this sluggish developer uptake is due to high construction costs, elevated interest rates, and other adverse economic conditions. However, the positive impact of SB 9 and the City's subsequent fourplex and sixplex policy is already demonstrated by the admittedly limited number of current projects and the promise that an increasingly favorable local and national economy will spur more timely development.

In addition, San Francisco committed to an ambitious target of constructing 82,069 units between 2023 and 2031 (approximately 10,000 per year), including 46,598 affordable units, and has taken steps to make this goal attainable.¹¹ In February 2023, Mayor London Breed introduced an executive order that detailed the roadmap toward reaching that target. This directive stated that "San Francisco needs to fundamentally change how we approve and build housing. The causes of this shortage are broad, and they include blatant obstructionism and well-intentioned but ill-advised laws that have choked housing production."¹² In addition, Breed's directive called for the abolition of conditional use authorization and for all departments involved in approving new developments to cut their approval timeline in half. Despite the directive city departments have not yet proven measurably faster in their approval speed and the conditional use process continues to divert valuable time and resources away from housing development.

Mayor Breed's directive also called for changes to the Planning Code to permit taller and denser buildings along many westside thoroughfares and transit corridors. Although uptake from the Board of Supervisors was slow, the state regulator conducted an audit of the city's existing housing policies in the fall and mandated that immediate changes be implemented. If not, the state would impose the 'builder's remedy' on San Francisco, meaning that nearly all housing projects would receive automatic approval. The Board missed its first deadline of November 24 but ultimately passed the amendments in December by a 9-2 vote.¹³ After an extensive process stretching across multiple meetings, the Youth Commission formally supported the ordinance at its December 4th meeting.¹⁴ The changes will allow apartment buildings to reach 85, 140, or even 240 feet tall along Geary Boulevard, 19th Avenue, Sunset Boulevard, and other major

¹⁰ Susie Neilson, 'California's new single-family zoning law probably won't produce much new housing in San Francisco, September 24, 2021

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/California-s-new-single-family-zoning-law-16468565.php>

¹¹ 'Housing Element Update 2022,' San Francisco Planning,

<https://sfplanning.org/project/housing-element-update-2022>

¹² J.K. Dineen, J.D. Morris, 'This is SF's plan to cut through red tape and get 82,000 housing units built, San Francisco Chronicle, February 7, 2023 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/housing-plan-breed-17767842.php>

¹³ J.k Dineen, 'State approves SF housing ordinance, avoiding potential penalties for the city,' San Francisco Chronicle, December 12, 2023,

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/s-f-housing-ordinance-state-approves-18550114.php>

¹⁴ City and County of San Francisco Youth Commission, Agenda, December 4, 2023

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/fyc120423_agenda.pdf

roads. This will hopefully facilitate the construction of thousands of new apartments on San Francisco's western side, providing an opportunity for more individuals and families to move in

On the other hand, it remains to be seen how these changes will translate into the construction of more affordable housing units. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman amended the final version of the ordinance to prohibit demolishing and replacing rent-controlled units with market-rate ones. Despite this, Supervisor Dean Preston noted that "I'm deeply concerned that since passing our housing element, nearly every effort that has been commenced by the mayor has been focused on meeting market-rate housing goals and little to nothing on reaching our state housing goals for affordable housing."¹⁵ By passing these changes, the Board took the first step toward its ultimate 82,000-unit target, but developers will likely opt to construct market-rate housing where possible out of profitability concerns.

Another crucial aspect of the recent Planning Code amendments relates to the city's discretionary review policy. Discretionary review has been a stubborn roadblock to developers and housing advocates since it was implemented in 1954, and it gives individual residents inordinate power to slow down or entirely block developments.¹⁶ When a housing project is in its planning stages, any neighbor can initiate a legal battle and ultimately an additional Planning Commission hearing by simply paying a \$700 filing fee.¹⁷ On average, the process takes at least nine months to complete, and developers are not allowed to proceed when the review is pending.¹⁸ Between 2015 and 2023, residents filed 910 discretionary review requests, primarily in San Francisco's wealthier northern and western neighborhoods such as the Marina and Pacific Heights.¹⁹ Common claims against new developments include shadows, construction noises, and privacy worries. While it is natural that neighbors may not appreciate all that comes with housing development in their own backyard, the discretionary review process allows their individual concerns to obstruct developments and get in the way of crucial citywide economic and societal progress.

Because of the recent Planning Code amendments, developers will not be required to notify neighbors of upcoming projects when they are in the planning phase, although there are exceptions for certain lower-income neighborhoods and for demolitions of a rental property.²⁰ In many cases, this will prevent neighbors from initiating the process before the filing deadline passes. However, this will not entirely eliminate discretionary review, and many projects will

¹⁵ Alito Toledo, "S.F. passes crucial housing reforms. Will it be enough to satisfy the state?", San Francisco Chronicle, December 5, 2023, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/san-francisco-supervisors-housing-18535145.php>

¹⁶ Christian Leonard, 'Is this SF policy a NIMBY weapon or way to block monster homes? One neighborhood is at the center of the debate, San Francisco Chronicle, February 1, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/noe-valley-san-francisco-18577276.php>

¹⁷ Christian Leonard, 'Is this SF policy a NIMBY weapon or way to block monster homes? One neighborhood is at the center of the debate, San Francisco Chronicle, February 1, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/noe-valley-san-francisco-18577276.php>

¹⁸ Christian Leonard, 'Is this SF policy a NIMBY weapon or way to block monster homes? One neighborhood is at the center of the debate, San Francisco Chronicle, February 1, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/noe-valley-san-francisco-18577276.php>

¹⁹ Christian Leonard, 'Is this SF policy a NIMBY weapon or way to block monster homes? One neighborhood is at the center of the debate, San Francisco Chronicle, February 1, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/noe-valley-san-francisco-18577276.php>

²⁰ Christian Leonard, 'Is this SF policy a NIMBY weapon or way to block monster homes? One neighborhood is at the center of the debate, San Francisco Chronicle, February 1, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/noe-valley-san-francisco-18577276.php>

likely still be affected by the process. To create more substantive and lasting change, the city could eliminate the policy altogether due to its shaky legal foundations. Analyzing the discretionary review process, UC Davis professor Chris Elmendorf wrote that “If I am right that (discretionary review) is more lore than law, it follows that the Board of Supervisors could enact an ordinance making the approval of any class of development permits ministerial.”²¹ Simply put, this change would put the entire process in the hands of city agencies and eliminate subjective criteria.²² This would benefit the city in several important ways. First, far fewer projects will be stymied altogether. Second, developers will be less wary of building in San Francisco and facing the risk of a drawn-out, costly legal battle that they do not encounter in most other municipalities. Third, the Planning Commission will no longer need to devote hundreds of hours to hearing neighbor complaints, freeing up time to address more substantive and impactful issues.

As the housing shortage has worsened in recent years, the political will to address the problem has increased and the city is now taking meaningful action. Mayor London Breed, state officials (including State Senator Scott Weiner), and around half of the city’s supervisors all deserve credit for proposing ambitious development targets, passing the recent Planning Code amendments, and being open to additional policy changes. Nevertheless, recent aspirations and legislation must be followed up with further measures, including but not limited to those listed below. In addition, the city must strike a balance between prioritizing development and affordability to ensure that citizens from all socioeconomic backgrounds, especially youth and families, can benefit from a growing housing stock and continue living in San Francisco.

Recommendations:

- 1. Establish Specific Annual Building Targets** – The City and County of San Francisco should establish concrete annual targets starting in 2024 outlining how many total and affordable units should be constructed. This will help the city stay on target for its long-term goal of building 82,000 new units and 46,000 new affordable units by 2031. If totals are not met in any given year, the city should explore what steps must be taken to rectify the trajectory of development, including aggressively and immediately implementing the following suggestions.
- 2. Explore additional amendments to the Planning Code** – The amendments passed in December 2023 represent important progress, but those changes alone are likely not enough to yield the housing necessary to achieve the city’s goals. Therefore, the City and County of San Francisco should continue to increase height limits, decrease setback

²¹ Christopher Elmendorf, Lawyering Cities into Housing Shortages: The Curious Case of Discretionary Review Under the San Francisco City Charter, NYU Environmental Law Journal, Vol. 32, No. 3, 2024, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4396188

²² Noah Arroyo, Could major hurdle to more housing projects in San Francisco be easily changed?, San Francisco Chronicle, March 25, 2023 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/housing-review-hurdles-17846048.php>

requirements, and take other measures outlined in the recent amendments to a further degree.

3. **Eliminate Discretionary Review** – The City and County of San Francisco should pass an ordinance to eliminate discretionary review altogether. The policy does not exist in most other cities, was based on shaky legal ground, and, most importantly, serves as a major obstruction to new housing development. For these reasons, the city should have the sole power to approve or reject proposals and their decisions should be based on objective criteria instead of how much community outcry a project elicits.
4. **Consider policies to promote affordable housing development** – The City and County of San Francisco should explore options to ensure that an adequate proportion of its new housing units are affordable. Possible solutions include placing a Charter amendment on the ballot that would increase the percentage of units that developers must allocate to below market-rate units from up from the current 12%. In addition, the City and County of San Francisco could increase subsidies for affordable housing in lower-resourced neighborhoods to accompany its promotion of new market-rate development in higher-resourced neighborhoods.

Background/Current Policies and Actions:

San Francisco's Vision Zero initiative, launched in 2014 with the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2024, has faced significant challenges despite nearly a decade of effort and substantial investment. The city has struggled to achieve its objectives, with the number of traffic fatalities remaining relatively stagnant over the past ten years. 25 deaths were recorded in 2023, just six fewer than in 2014. This lack of progress can be attributed to various factors, including the slow implementation of street changes despite ample funding, bureaucratic processes, and resource constraints. Severe injury crashes have increased by 33%, averaging 242 annually between 2014 and 2022. Too many people have died on our streets, and too many families and youth struggle with the loss of loved ones or the challenges of lifelong severe injuries. While the initiative has raised awareness and allowed for the development of effective strategies using lessons learned since 2014 to reduce traffic deaths, the city's inability to significantly reduce fatalities underscores a failure of political will and effective execution.

To address these challenges, San Francisco has implemented a comprehensive set of policies and actions under the Vision Zero framework. These initiatives encompass a multi-disciplinary approach involving infrastructure improvements, public education, law enforcement, and policy changes. Legislation to reduce speed limits is proven to lessen fatalities. As a leading factor of fatal and severe crashes, speed matters: if a person were to be hit by a vehicle traveling 20mph there is a 90% chance of survival; however, if a person is hit by a vehicle traveling at 40mph, the survival rate drops to 40%. The identification of the High Injury Network, comprising 12% of city streets where 68% of severe and fatal collisions occur, has enabled targeted safety measures to be implemented in critical areas. Additionally, the city has introduced Quick-Build Projects since 2019, which expedite safety improvements using adaptable solutions such as paint and signage. However some "Quick-Build" projects have taken as long as 2 years to complete. A proposal to improve less than a half mile of bikeways and pedestrian safety along Bayshore Boulevard started in October 2021 but did not conclude construction until September of 2023.

Every year in San Francisco, about 30 people lose their lives, and over 500 more are severely injured while traveling on city streets. These deaths and injuries are unacceptable and preventable. Over 1.3 million people are killed annually and traffic deaths are the leading cause of premature mortality for people under the age of 30. Vision Zero San Francisco commits city agencies to build better and safer streets, educate the public on traffic safety, enforce traffic laws, and adopt policy changes that save lives.

Vision Zero is essential because it represents a commitment to prioritizing human life over convenience or expedience. Traffic fatalities and severe injuries not only cause immeasurable pain and suffering to victims and their families but also have far-reaching social and economic impacts on communities. In 2020, seniors accounted for approximately 25% of pedestrian deaths and people experiencing homelessness were killed in 20% of fatal crashes despite being only 15% and 1% of the city's population respectively. Youth, in particular, have a stake in the success of Vision Zero initiatives. They are often among the most vulnerable road users, whether as pedestrians, cyclists, or novice drivers. Ensuring safe streets not only protects their lives but also

promotes their physical and mental well-being, allowing them to engage more freely in active transportation and outdoor activities. Additionally, involving youth in Vision Zero efforts empowers them to advocate for their own safety and become active participants in shaping the future of their communities

Despite setbacks, San Francisco needs to remain steadfast in its commitment to Vision Zero. We may have missed our 2024 goal, but we must continue ongoing efforts to focus on enhancing street infrastructure, bolstering enforcement measures, and promoting sustainable transportation options to mitigate traffic-related injuries and fatalities. Don't get us wrong, zero traffic fatalities is an ambitious goal but with the lessons we have learned and San Francisco's sustained commitment, innovative approaches, and collaborative action we can achieve safer streets for all.

Recommendations:

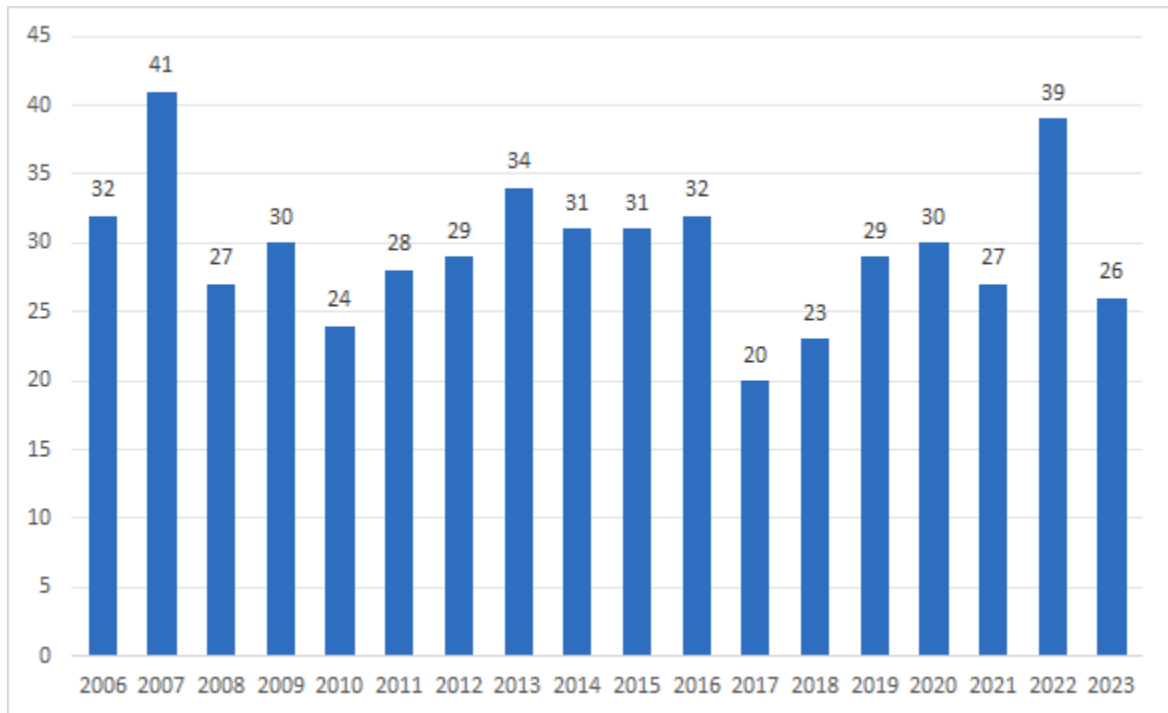
Short Term:

1. Renewed action plan: Set a new deadline and develop a new plan with measurable goals.
2. Speed limits: Continue to pass legislation that reduces speed limits, especially in high risk areas.
3. More Quick-Builds less bureaucracy: The cost of improving the rest of the high-injury network could be as little as \$4 million if the city does the cheapest possible quick builds or as much as \$331 million.
4. No Turn On Red policy

Long Term:

1. Harness self driving technology: policies and infrastructure adaptations to facilitate the integration of self-driving vehicles into its transportation system. This may involve establishing designated lanes or zones for autonomous vehicles, implementing infrastructure upgrades to support vehicle-to-infrastructure communication, and adapting traffic signals and signage to accommodate autonomous driving capabilities.
2. Congestion pricing: Consider a downtown congestion pricing program to control the amount of traffic and vehicles.
3. Build closer together: if people lived closer to their job, school, grocery store, etc. there is less of a risk of traffic fatalities.

Government data identifies driver behavior or error as a factor in 94 percent of crashes, and self-driving vehicles can help reduce driver error and traffic fatalities



<https://sfstandard.com/2023/12/20/traffic-deaths-in-san-francisco-continue-despite-vision-zero/>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/automated-vehicles-safety>

<https://coalitionforfuturemobility.com/benefits-of-self-driving-vehicles/>

<https://www.visionzerosf.org/about/action-strategy/>

MAKE FREE MUNI FOR ALL YOUTH PERMANENT

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for the continued promotion and funding of Free Muni for all Youth by including it as a baseline in the SFMTA budget.

BACKGROUND

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Free Muni For Youth (FMFY). This advocacy began in 2010 with RESOLUTION NO. 1011-AL041 calling on SFMTA and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to implement the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass. Further resolutions called for the expansion of the program to 18-year-olds and later to expand the program to all youth.

The FMFY program was created in 2013 as a pilot program that allowed low to moderate-income youth aged 5-17 to ride for free. The program was partially funded with a grant from Google. The implementation was a partial response to SFUSD yellow school bus cuts. The means-tested pilot program became permanent in 2015. In April 2020, the program was expanded to 18-year-olds and students enrolled in Special Education and English Learner programs through age 22.

The 2019-20 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-AL-144 where they highlighted that the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate-Income Youth program suffered from a complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with limited English proficiency and people who do not have easy access to the SFMTA offices at 1 South Van Ness Avenue. Youth Commissioners proposed the FMFAY Program in the resolution. The new program would reduce the administrative burden on SFMTA to process applications, verify eligibility, and issue Clipper cards.

During the 2019-20 budget advocacy season and forward, Youth Commissioners met with SFMTA budget staff urging them to fund the 1-year pilot program. Additionally, Youth Commissioners included the FMFAY program in their fall 2020 Omnibus Preliminary Budget Priorities. On August 15, 2021, Muni, with \$2 Million in funding included in Mayor Breed's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget proposal, launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program until August 14, 2022. On April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve their FY 2023-24 budget which included \$4.1 Million to continue the FMFAY program until June 2024.

The FMFAY program is critical in removing the financial burden of fares for families. The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities. The implementation of FMFAY has dramatically increased program accessibility compared to the previous means-tested program. SFUSD's most recent travel tally survey found that 60% of SFUSD 9th graders use Muni on a given day. The new program is succeeding in reaching youth who didn't previously have a Free Muni Clipper Card. 61% of youth utilizing the FMFAY program did not participate in the means tested FMFY program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Continue the Free Muni for All Youth program - Provide funding and include it in all future SFMTA baseline budgets.
2. Apply for Grants to fund the program.
3. Continue to Promote the Free Muni for All Youth program - especially through communications at the beginning of the school year.

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE ON TRANSIT

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for the resources and funding to expand the school tripper program and to maintain and increase safety measures and reliability on Muni.

Background

The Muni transit system in San Francisco is relied upon by a large portion of youth in the city, as a means of transportation to go to school and recreational activities. The Youth Commission strongly believes that it is critical to maintain it in the best possible condition to guarantee people's safety and timely arrival to their destinations.

School Tripper Program

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) School Tripper Program currently consists of 20 special bus trips that run along regular Muni routes but originate as an empty bus at a school along the route to reduce crowding and pass-ups throughout the line.¹ The trips are mandated by the Federal Transportation Administration to be open to the public; however, the buses primarily serve students from the schools they originate at. These 20 trips currently serve 15 schools. Approximately 50,000 students attend SFUSD schools, and approximately half of enrolled students use Muni for their daily commute.²

The Youth Commission has discovered that while the program limits the distribution of the trippers to more schools that could benefit from them more, it does not prioritize schools with high pass-up rates. Balboa High School has an enrollment of 1,260 students and is located near the terminus of some of Muni's most frequent lines, including the J Church, K Ingleside, M Ocean View, 8 Bayshore, and 49 Van Ness, and still receives 2 school trippers. Meanwhile, Lowell High School, San Francisco's largest public high school, has an enrollment of 2,668 students. The only line serving the school with a frequency of less than 20 minutes is the 29 Sunset, with the 28 19th Avenue and M Ocean View half a mile away. Lowell does not receive any school trippers despite requests from the Lowell administration and students dating back to at least 2017. Lowell serves as one of the more well-documented problems with the school tripper program and Muni service to schools in general, as there are other schools, with fewer lines and/or lines that may run frequently but are often crowded, which don't receive school trippers. The Youth Commission has concerns regarding the fairness and efficacy behind the current distribution of the SFMTA School Tripper services.

Safety On Transit (research equity initiative more what measures have been taken)

¹ Keli Dailey, left, "Muni Routes to City Schools," SFMTA, January 20, 2023, <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/muni/routes-stops/muni-routes-serving-city-schools>.

²

<https://www.sf.gov/news/mayor-london-breed-and-city-officials-highlight-pedestrian-traffic-safety-first-day-school>

The Youth Commission believes in expanding the current measures put in place to decrease violent incidents on Muni. According to SFPD data cited by Muni, it was shown that there were a much larger number of incidents reported before the pandemic but since then the numbers have had a significant increase since 2020. As of April 2023, it has been reported that there have been at least 188 incidents, including at least 63 larcenies, 29 robberies, and 17 assaults.³ Incidents, such as the one involving a juvenile who was arrested in connection with a stabbing on a Muni bus and sent a second youth to the hospital in critical condition⁴, prompted SFMTA to launch a safety equity initiative late 2023 focusing on gender based and sexual harassment on public transportation with hopes of combatting harassment and violence and empowering Muni customers. They believe by prioritizing safety from a gender and racial equity lens, that it will aim to build diverse, intersectional community partnerships to better understand Muni riders' experiences and develop solutions to address harassment when using Muni⁵.

Frequency and Reliability Of Muni on High Traffic Routes

The Youth Commission believes in increasing the reliability of transit, especially on high traffic routes, as youth across the city rely on Muni. The implementation of transit-only lanes on the

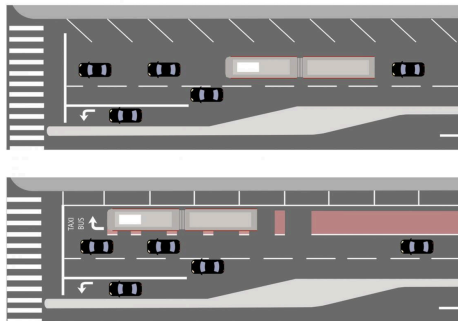


Diagram showing a bus approaching an intersection **without** transit lanes vs. **with** transit lanes. It only takes one or two cars to prevent a bus from catching a green light.

side and middle of streets has been proven to reduce travel time⁶. Transit lanes protect buses from getting delayed by traffic and coloring the lanes red has been shown to improve compliance by as much as 50%.⁷ Transit-only lanes also help buses get to the front of an intersection, which means they can take advantage of transit signal priority and spend less time stuck at red lights. In 2021, the first phase of a transit only lane project was completed on Geary St and Stanyan St. SFMTA reports that reliability was improved by 38% after the transit-only lane implementation⁸. Other streets in the city, which are a part of high traffic routes, would also benefit from this policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

³ <https://abc7news.com/muni-crime-safety-program-incidents/13412041/>

⁴

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/update-teen-injured-stabbing-san-francisco-muni-bus-recovering-12-year-old-boy-arrested/>

⁵ <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/safety-equity-initiative>

⁶

<https://thefrisc.com/transit-first-policy-and-a-better-bus-stymied-again-by-parking-spots-on-geary-f51d9f706748>

⁷ <https://www.sfmta.com/project-updates/extending-transit-and-safety-benefits-western-geary-corridor>

⁸

<https://thefrisc.com/transit-first-policy-and-a-better-bus-stymied-again-by-parking-spots-on-geary-f51d9f706748> Extending transit and safety benefits to the western Geary corridor | SFMTA

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Urge the SFMTA to expand the school tripper program - using clear metrics such as student body size, proximity to existing high frequency and high capacity transit service, and route overcrowding and pass-ups when determining how to allocate new and existing school tripper resources.
2. Increase safety on Muni - allocate funding to expanding the current safety measures
3. Increase the frequency and reliability of Muni - expand the Transit-Only Lane project to decrease travel and wait time

Increasing Resilience of San Francisco

Background:

In recent years, the world has witnessed an alarming increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, serving as stark reminders of the profound impact of climate change on our planet. From devastating hurricanes battering coastal communities to unprecedented wildfires raging across vast landscapes, the toll of these disasters is not merely measured in numbers but in shattered homes, fractured lives, and profound grief. Additionally, prolonged droughts have parched fertile lands, decimated crops, and strained water resources to their limits, further exacerbating the challenges faced by communities already grappling with climate-induced catastrophes.

Burning fossil fuels has caused global temperatures to rise and weather to become more extreme. Today, global climate change is directly affecting San Francisco, including higher temperatures, more extreme heat days, more extreme storms with heavier rainfall and flooding, sea level rise, severe droughts, and poorer air quality. These conditions have left California susceptible to catastrophic wildfires, directly threatening homes, businesses, and protected areas, and blanketing the city, state, and many other parts of the nation with hazardous smoke.

Climate change has both direct and indirect consequences. Direct consequences lead to health and economic challenges such as heat stroke, injuries from extreme storms, and respiratory illness from poor air quality. Indirect downstream consequences include food insecurity caused by poor agricultural output, income and property loss, housing and job insecurity due to drought, flooding, and wildfires, and increased rates of anxiety and depression because of these disruptive consequences of climate change. These impacts extend far beyond the immediate damage caused by extreme weather events, shaping the very fabric of society and threatening the well-being of communities across the globe. As we grapple with the uncertainty of future emissions and the climate's response, it becomes increasingly clear that urgent action is needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change and safeguard the future of our planet for generations to come.

San Francisco's Climate Action Plan encompasses several key sectors, each vital for the city's transition to a sustainable and resilient future. These sectors include Energy Supply, Building Operations, Transportation and Land Use, Housing, Responsible Production and Consumption, Healthy Ecosystems, and Water Supply.

The Energy Supply sector focuses on transitioning away from fossil fuels to 100% renewable electricity for buildings and vehicles. Key strategies include expanding renewable electricity capacity, preparing for changes in electricity demand, and providing equitable rates and programs for low-income households.

Building Operations aim to eliminate emissions from all buildings by 2040 through electrification and the use of 100% renewable electricity. Strategies include electrifying existing buildings, providing education and financial incentives, and creating a diverse and skilled workforce.

The Transportation and Land Use sector seeks to support low-carbon travel options and reduce reliance on cars. Goals include making 80% of all trips low-carbon by 2030 and ensuring all new registered private vehicles are electric by 2040. Strategies involve improving transit efficiency, building active transportation networks, and transitioning to zero-emissions vehicles.

Housing initiatives prioritize creating more housing for all income levels, with an emphasis on maximum affordability and retaining existing housing. Strategies include expanding housing and stabilization programs, preserving existing housing, and building housing near transit corridors.

Responsible Production and Consumption focus on reducing solid waste generation and waste sent to landfills by 2030. Strategies include addressing the life-cycle impacts of buildings, reducing food waste, and embracing plant-rich diets.

Healthy Ecosystems aim to sequester emissions and support biodiversity through nature-based solutions. Strategies include restoring natural lands, expanding urban forestry, and implementing regenerative agriculture practices.

Water Supply initiatives focus on diversifying water-supply options, improving the use of new water sources, and maintaining a gravity-driven water-delivery system. Strategies include investing in supply augmentation programs, continuing water conservation efforts, and exploring new ways to reduce water use and develop new supplies.

Together, these sectors form a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change, promoting sustainability, and building resilience in San Francisco. By implementing these strategies, the city can work towards a more equitable, climate-resilient, and sustainable future for all residents.

The current San Francisco Climate Action Plan (CAP) contains nothing on defensive measures that the city should implement in order to protect us from worsening weather conditions. The plan focuses on cutting carbon emission. Although achieving net zero emissions by 2040 and reducing greenhouse gasses and fossil fuels is important, it is only one side of the equation; we have to also improve our infrastructure to deal with more frequent extreme weather and other side effects that come with rising global temperatures. Just because San Francisco reaches net zero emissions by 2040 does not mean climate change is over. Global warming is global. The world must collectively take actions. If not, let's stay one step ahead and prepare, bolster, and enhance our infrastructure to protect San Francisco for our youth and future generations.

Recommendations:

Short Term:

1. Rework climate action plan to address unmet needs and defensive measures
2. Invest in resilience: Install storm drain infrastructure at high flood risk areas. Improve warning systems.
3. Routinely check all trees to reduce risk of falling trees

Long Term:

<https://www.sfclimateplan.org/>

EXPAND ACCESS TO YOUTH-CENTERED RECREATIONAL SPACES

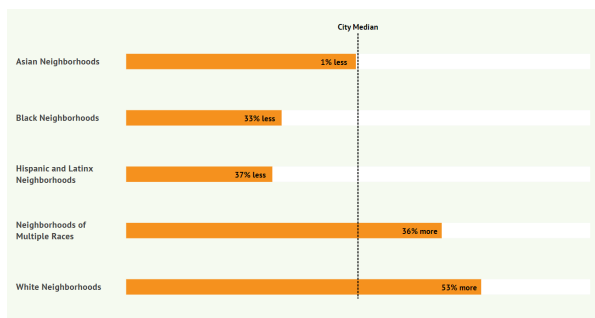
The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the improvement of local public parks, increased funding and expansion of programs at the Main Library Mix and local libraries, permanency and expansion of the Slow Streets program, and the exploration and expansion of new car free spaces.

Background

The Youth Commission is driven to ensure that all youth in San Francisco have equitable access to well maintained recreational spaces and are receiving the full and equal benefits of the city's Slow Streets, car-free spaces, public parks, and public resources.

Public Parks

The Youth Commission believes in improving and ensuring that all neighborhoods in the city have equitable access to well maintained and funded parks. According to the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Index,¹ 100% of city residents are within a half mile radius of a park, but equity is lacking. Residents in neighborhoods with high concentrations of Black, Hispanic, Asian



American, and other people of color have access to 35% less park space per person than the city's average, and 56% less than residents in neighborhoods with high concentrations of white people. Residents living in lower-income neighborhoods have access to 55% less nearby park space than those in higher income neighborhoods. In order to achieve equitable access to parks, more funding should be allocated to

improving local parks, especially in equity zones, low-income neighborhoods, and neighborhoods with a larger population of communities of color. To further close the equity gap, outreach should be conducted in collaboration with local community organizations in equity priority neighborhoods to promote the use of larger parks, such as Golden Gate Park, Stern Grove, and John McLaren Park. This is to ensure that all youth in the city are aware of the opportunities for recreation in the park and how they can take advantage of them. This can be done by spreading awareness about the transit options to get to the parks.²

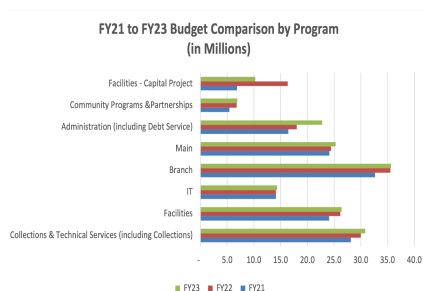
Public Spaces

The Youth Commission believes in expanding and improving public youth-centered spaces. The Mix at the San Francisco Main Library has historically provided youth with unique opportunities by providing multiple ways for youth to engage within the program space. The Mix is different

¹ https://parkserve.tpl.org/downloads/pdfs/San%20Francisco_CA.pdf

² <https://www.tpl.org/city/san-francisco-california>

from most library programs as it provides hands-on experience with activities such as social and writing groups, sewing, music recording and production lessons, 3D printing, and computer



access rather than just paper books. These resources, especially lessons and groups, are incredibly valuable for youth to connect and socialize with others. The Youth Commission believes that expanding programs such as these at local libraries, especially those in low-equity areas, would increase accessibility to resources for San Francisco youth. This can be done by allocating more funding to community programs and branches, as well as conducting outreach to the local youth to make sure their needs are

being met. Further, expanding The Mix's youth program hours to be later in the day would allow more youth in the city, who may live farther away from the Main Library, to attend these programs.³

Slow Streets

In 2022, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2223-AL-035⁴ urging officials to approve a citywide network of permanent Slow Streets. In December 2022, the SFMTA Board approved the permanent Slow Streets program. The Youth Commission believes in maintaining and supporting improvements to the program. According to SFMTA's 2023 evaluation⁵ of the Slow Streets Program, of the sixteen permanent Slow Streets that were evaluated, only three (23rd Avenue, Sanchez Street, and Shotwell Street) meet the Board-adopted volume and speed targets for Slow Streets. The remaining 13 Slow Streets require volume management tools, speed management tools, or both to better meet the adopted targets for low-traffic streets. Funding and support should be given to SFMTA's efforts to improve the program, as Slow Streets encourage recreational activities, biking, and walking. Slow Streets give way to community building recreational activities, such as the Slow Streets Mural Program, which engages community members by putting art on the pavement. Current Slow Streets not only need to be improved and maintained, but the Youth Commission believes other Slow Street possibilities should be explored and funded to further expand the program. While Slow Streets are incredibly beneficial in some areas, residents of certain neighborhoods have negative experiences with the program, after becoming frustrated with the halt in the flow of traffic. The Youth Commission believes that Slow Streets that have resulted in substantial negative feedback should be re-evaluated and more local community outreach should be conducted for potential Slow Streets to ensure the needs of every community is being recognized and met

³[https://sfpl.org/about-us/budget-information#:~:text=On%20July%2025%2C%202023%2C%20the,Francisco%20Public%20Library%20\(SFPL\).](https://sfpl.org/about-us/budget-information#:~:text=On%20July%2025%2C%202023%2C%20the,Francisco%20Public%20Library%20(SFPL).)

⁴ <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/RESOLUTION%202223-AL-03%20v1.pdf>

⁵https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2023/05/2023_slow_streets_evaluation_report_20230510.pdf

Car-Free Spaces

The Youth Commission recognizes the success of Car-Free JFK and believes in investing in transit lines that provide access to the park, as well as considering making other streets in the city car-free. In the November 2022 Election, Proposition J, which permanently kept JFK Drive car-free, passed with 63% of voters approving the proposition⁶. Making JFK Drive car-free was a major step toward increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety in San Francisco, especially as JFK Drive was on the City's High Injury Network. This also created recreational opportunities for residents, including youth, and there have been 36% more daily park trips of walking, biking, rolling, and strolling on JFK Drive since before the closure.

The closure of JFK Drive to cars has resulted in a reduction in parking, thus it is critical to make Muni service to the park, such as the 44 line, more efficient, robust, and reliable. In 2022, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION No. 2223-AL-09, highlighting concerns about the Muni 44 O'Shaughnessy line. The line provides public transit access to Golden Gate Park from the Bayview and Excelsior districts which have previously highlighted concerns about accessing Golden Gate Park since JFK has become car-free. It is heavily impacted by private vehicle traffic congestion and illegal parking near and in Golden Gate Park which causes increased travel times and contributes to declines in service reliability including bus bunching and service gaps (at times as many as 4 buses have bunched within a 2 block segment of the route). The Youth Commission recognizes the importance of the recreational and safe transportation opportunities that Car-Free JFK provides for people, especially youth. The Youth Commission believes in investing in and improving the 44 O'Shaughnessy line in order to create more opportunities for Southeast San Francisco communities to access JFK Drive and other Golden Gate Park attractions.

After seeing the success of a Car-Free JFK, the Youth Commission believes in exploring other options for pedestrianized streets in the city. In 2024, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2324-AL-06⁷, supporting the removal of the center bikeway on Valencia St and the construction of protected bikeways. Valencia St is a prominent location for frequent vehicle-related injuries in the city, 3 pedestrians having been killed since 2020⁸. Unsafe turning, misuse of the bike lane, double parking, and speeding cause many collisions to occur, discouraging people from walking or biking, thus harming local businesses and recreational activities. A pedestrianized Valencia St., where people can walk and bike safely, with only vehicles permitted for commercial deliveries and local residents, would greatly benefit the city. According to SFMTA's evaluation of the center bikeway project, the number of bikers had gone down 53% since the implementation⁹. A pedestrianized Valencia St. would bring cyclists and pedestrians back, cause fewer vehicle-related deaths and injuries, and result in an environmentally friendly, economically thriving Valencia Street. The Youth Commission

⁶ <https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-8-2022-election-results-summary>

⁷ <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/Resolution%20No.%202324-AL-06%20v2.pdf>

⁸ <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2023/12/18/guest-commentary-valencia-in-peril>

⁹ <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/valencia-bikeway-improvements>

believes that a plan to fully create pedestrianized Valencia St. should be explored, funded, and developed, with the opinions of local businesses and the public in mind.

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Support and fund efforts of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to improve and promote the use of local parks and playgrounds, especially those in equity zones.
2. Expand Program Hours at the Mix at SFPL - Invest funding and resources to expand the Mix at San Francisco Public Library's program hours and the programs in local libraries in order to make opportunities to attend more accessible.
3. Maintain Slow Streets program - Provide funding and support for the SFMTA to fully implement, maintain, and expand permanent slow streets program infrastructure.
4. Expand Car Free Space - Urge and provide funding to city agencies to conduct outreach and explore making other pedestrianized streets, specifically Valencia St.
5. Address Transit Delay in Golden Gate Park and The Inner Sunset - Direct the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to develop a plan to reduce delays for public transit on 9th Avenue from Judah Street to MLK Drive and MLK Drive from 9th Avenue to Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive including increased parking enforcement, parking and loading changes, turn restrictions, and restricting private vehicle access to 9th Avenue from Judah Street to Lincoln Way

Citations to be added (many from previous BPP)***

Background

As of 2024, San Francisco's handling of the homelessness crisis reflects a journey marked by both significant challenges, as well as achievements. This crisis—deeply rooted in historical and systemic factors—did not develop overnight. Instead, it's steadily worsened over decades, leading to the current situation.

The issue of homelessness in San Francisco has been a persistent challenge, one that has evolved and intensified over the years. In 1985, a period in which homelessness and displacement were on the rise due to the recent recession, the Reagan Administration made substantial cutbacks in public and supportive housing programs, such as Section 8, shifting the responsibility of addressing homelessness and housing crises to local jurisdictions. San Francisco's response at the time, under Mayor Dianne Feinstein, focused on providing temporary housing and food to those in need. However, the administration underestimated the severity and longevity of the homelessness crisis, expecting it to subside with the end of the recession. As a result, they did not address it with the urgency necessary to prevent potential exacerbation and this inaction contributed to a deterioration of the crisis.

Several of San Francisco's mayors, including Art Agnos, Gavin Newsom, and London Breed, have prioritized addressing homelessness, implementing various policies and initiatives. However, despite these efforts, the crisis has persisted, compounded by a lack of affordable housing and broader socio-economic issues.

The homelessness situation in San Francisco has seen significant fluctuations over the years. For instance, in 2007, the unhoused population was recorded at 5,703, but by 2019, this number escalated to 9,784. The visible increase in homelessness has not only affected those living on the streets and in shelters but also impacted the city's economic and social fabric. The presence of a larger unhoused population in many areas of San Francisco has decreased foot traffic and negatively affected the livelihoods of residents and local businesses. This has brought national attention to the city's homelessness crisis, often overshadowing its efforts to address the issue.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges to San Francisco's unhoused population, as shelter-in-place orders were impractical for those without shelter. In response, the city launched the Alternative Shelter [Program](#), providing emergency shelter to 9,093 individuals during the pandemic's peak. This program, although temporary, demonstrated the city's capacity to provide safety to its unhoused population through decisive action.

Unhoused youth, in particular, has been a growing concern in San Francisco. A 2022 Point-in-Time survey by Applied Service Research revealed that 1,073 individuals under the age

of 25 were experiencing homelessness, with 84% unsheltered. The causes of youth homelessness are diverse, including job loss, family conflicts, substance abuse, and mental health issues. The high percentage of LGBTQ+ youth among the unhoused population, often resulting from family rejection, emphasizes the city's need for targeted support and mental health services.

San Francisco's [current](#) efforts show a decline in homelessness, with a 3.5% [decrease](#) in total homelessness since 2019 and a 15% reduction in unsheltered homelessness. The city has actively worked to increase the number of people exiting homelessness, with a 70% increase in individuals aided by city programs compared to before Mayor Breed's tenure.

In preparation for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, the city was able to highlight its ability to swiftly mobilize resources and manage homelessness effectively in specific circumstances. The city's [response](#) to the conference, which included increasing shelter capacity and clearing key areas of encampments, demonstrated a significant adequacy for action under pressure. [However](#), these measures, primarily driven by the need to present the city positively, contrast with the sustained efforts required for long-term homelessness solutions.

Innovative solutions that do not lead to displacement are crucial for a sustainable approach to homelessness. An example of such is the development of Navigation Centers, specifically targeting transitional-aged youth (TAY). The Lower Polk TAY Navigation Center at 700 Hyde Street—the first of its kind for youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco—offers a comprehensive array of services and a supportive environment tailored to the needs of young unhoused individuals. This includes medical and mental health services, workforce development support, and connections to paid career training opportunities, provided in a safe and healthy environment. This approach is indicative of the city's commitment to finding humane and effective solutions to homelessness, particularly for its youth and TAY populations, without generating displacement.

Conclusion

San Francisco's journey in addressing homelessness has been marked by various strategies, efforts, and challenges. The city has demonstrated its capability to effectively respond to homelessness, as seen during the APEC conference and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, translating this capability into consistent, long-term strategies remains an essential task. Sustained political will, continuous resource allocation, innovative solutions, and comprehensive strategies that respect the dignity and autonomy of unhoused individuals, especially youth, are essential for effectively tackling this complex issue. By continuing to focus on these areas, San Francisco can build on its recent progress and work towards a more sustainable and humane resolution to its homelessness crisis.

Recommendations:

Long-term Solutions to homelessness Without Displacement - Finding innovative solutions to homelessness that prevent displacement is crucial...??work on this

Researching the Efficacy of Navigation Centers for Youth and Transitional Age Youth - Further research is needed on the effectiveness of Navigation Centers -.. include evaluating navigation centers impact on this demographic and identifying areas for improvement? Additionally, the city should consider allocating more funding for the development of on-site services and resources at these sites. Enhancing these facilities with improved services in education, job training, mental health support, and pathways to long-term housing can significantly improve outcomes for youth residing there.

Targeted Support for LGBTQ+ and Minority Youth???????

Notes:

Last year's:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kbHEmeYsWyE4H61FdgGVFzT8R_XZWtOTowOBr7kxNpk/edit?usp=drive_link

Outline

background/history

Section 8 - ronald reagan administration

Dianne feinstein no urgency when addressing the homelessness crisis—lead to exacerbation of crisis

homelessness increased in following years despite other mayors efforts to reduce although the homeless crisis has affected all age groups, youth have been especially susceptible to experiencing homelessness in recent years

9 out of 10 young people who complete our long-term housing programs exit to stable housing.

“homeless youth” refers to unaccompanied children under the age of 18 and unaccompanied transitional-age youth, or young adults, age 18 to 24. These youth are reported to HUD within the “households without children” and “households with only children” household types.

Why has it decreased? Not just talk about numbers and what we can do to change

Things to research/add:

- Need to add more emphasis on unhoused LGBTQ youth–
- Talk more about the nav centers, can use info from last year BPP

Recommendations



SFMTA

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency **2024 Agency and Budget Update**

San Francisco Youth Commission
February 20, 2024



We want to work together to create an equitable and sustainable transportation network for the future.

The SFMTA budget pays for ...



72 MUNI LINES



BUSES AND LRVS



CABLE CARS



2,500 MUNI DRIVERS



PARATRANSIT



CROSSING GUARDS



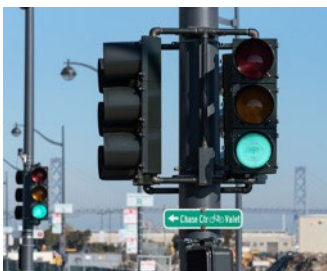
STREET DESIGN



TAXIS



BIKESHARE



TRAFFIC SIGNALS



STREET SAFETY



TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE

Recent Accomplishments



CENTRAL SUBWAY



MORE THAN .5M PARATRANSIT TRIPS



BAYVIEW TRANSPORT RESOURCE CTR



467 MILES OF BIKEWAYS



43 MILES OF SLOWER STREETS



RIDERSHIP UP 25%

SFMTA Operating Budget



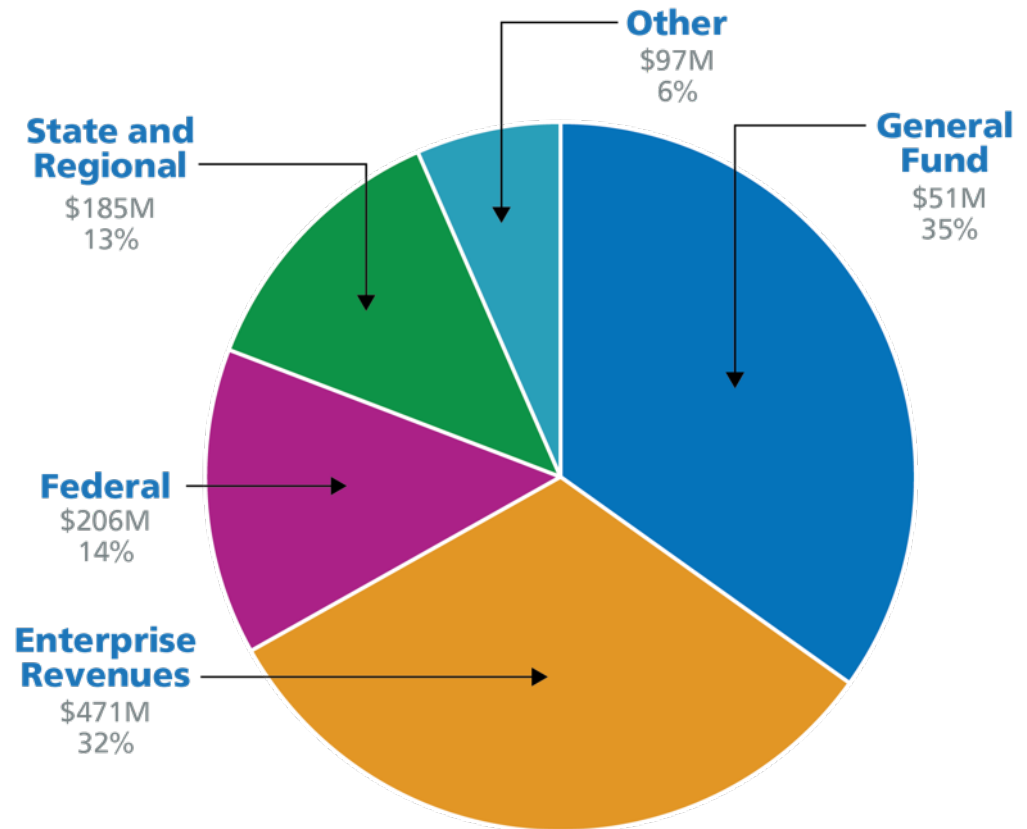
SFMTA is an Enterprise Agency

The SFMTA receives some funds from SF's General Fund, but we have to make up the rest of the operating budget from our own income, our "enterprise".



SFMTA FY23-24 Revenue

The operating budget is funded by the SF General Fund and “enterprise revenues” (transit fares and parking fees). Since the pandemic, the federal government has provided significant relief funding.



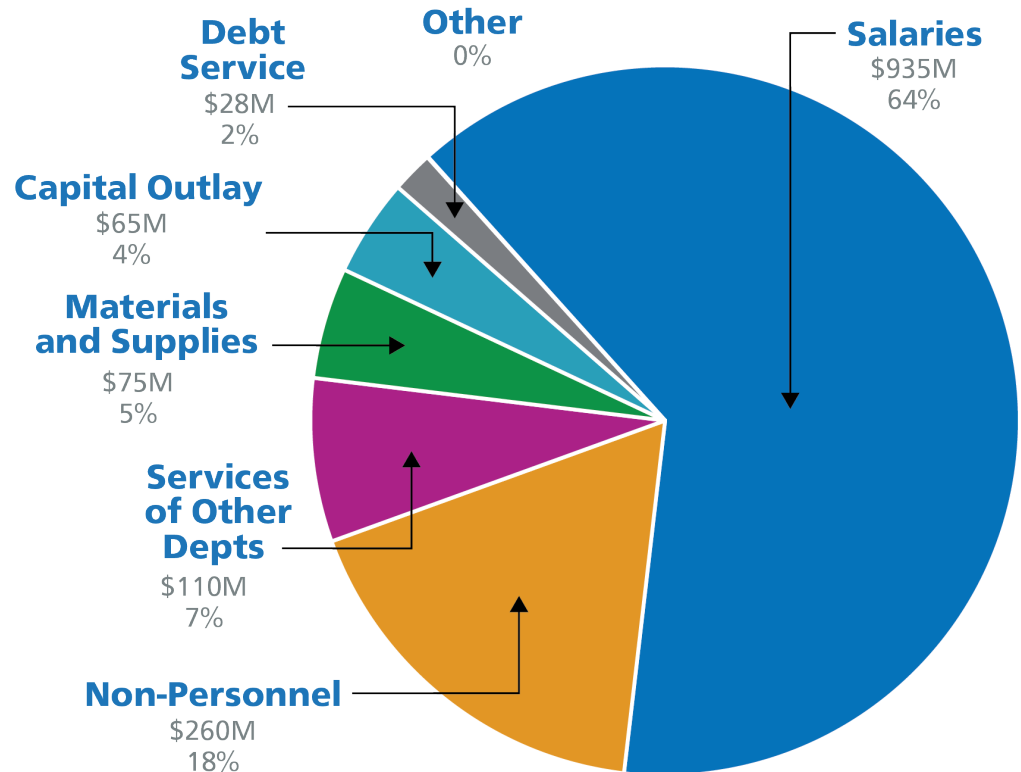
TOTAL: \$1,473 M

SFMTA FY23-24 Expenses

Staff are the SFMTA's most important resource.

64% of expenses fund our 5,900+ person workforce. 2,500 of them are Muni operators.

97.25% of positions are non-management.



TOTAL: \$1,473 M

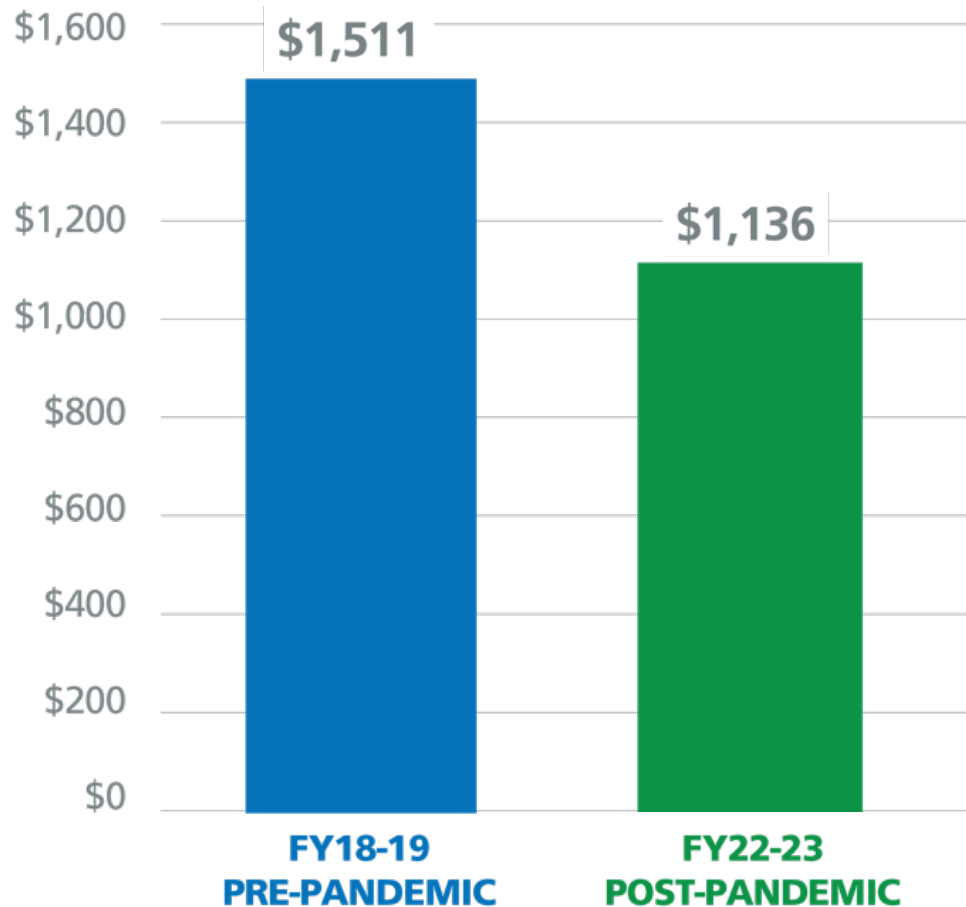
Budget Context

1. Revenue is lower than pre-pandemic.
2. Expenditures are higher because of inflation.
3. FY22-23 expenditure exceeded SFMTA revenue, but we balanced the budget using federal relief funds.
4. Federal, state and regional relief is expected to run out in FY25-26.



We're still recovering from the pandemic

FY22-23 revenue was **\$375M**—or **25% less**—than FY18-19, adjusted for inflation.



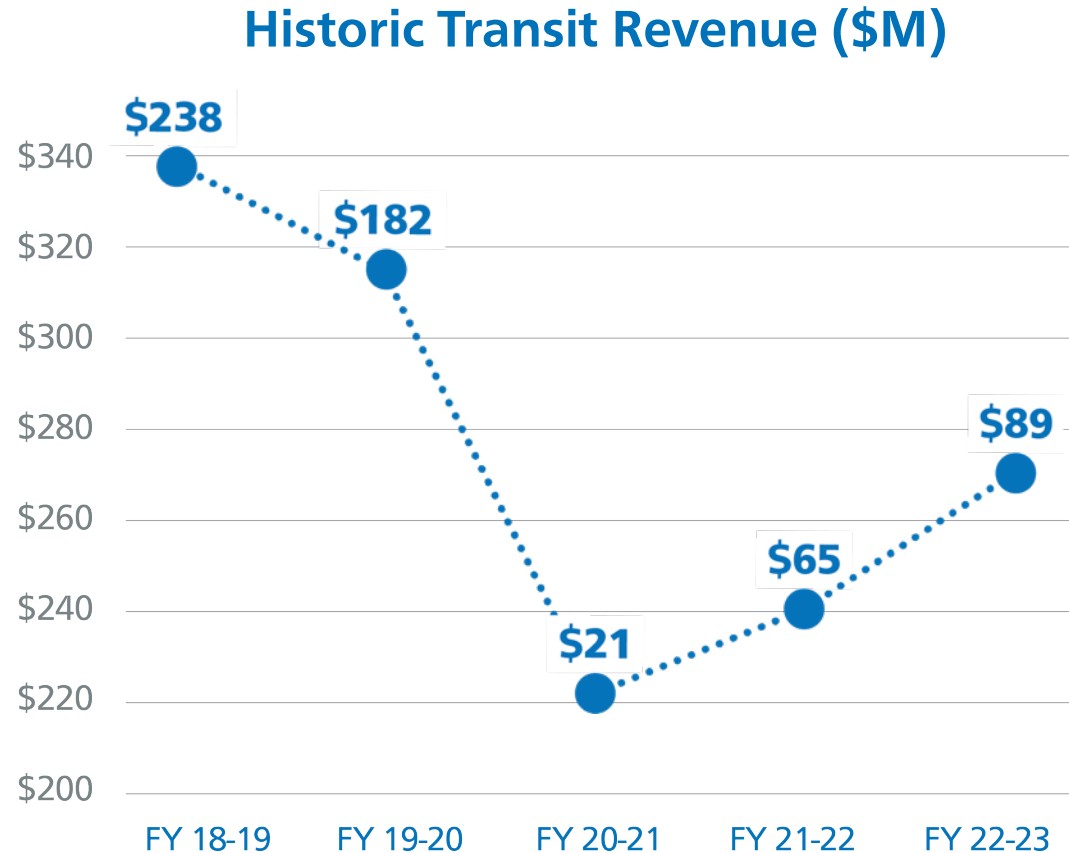
High Work from Home Rates

SF has the country's second highest WFH rate. 40% of SF work is done at home. That means those people aren't commuting to offices, meaning they are not paying Muni fares or parking at downtown garages.



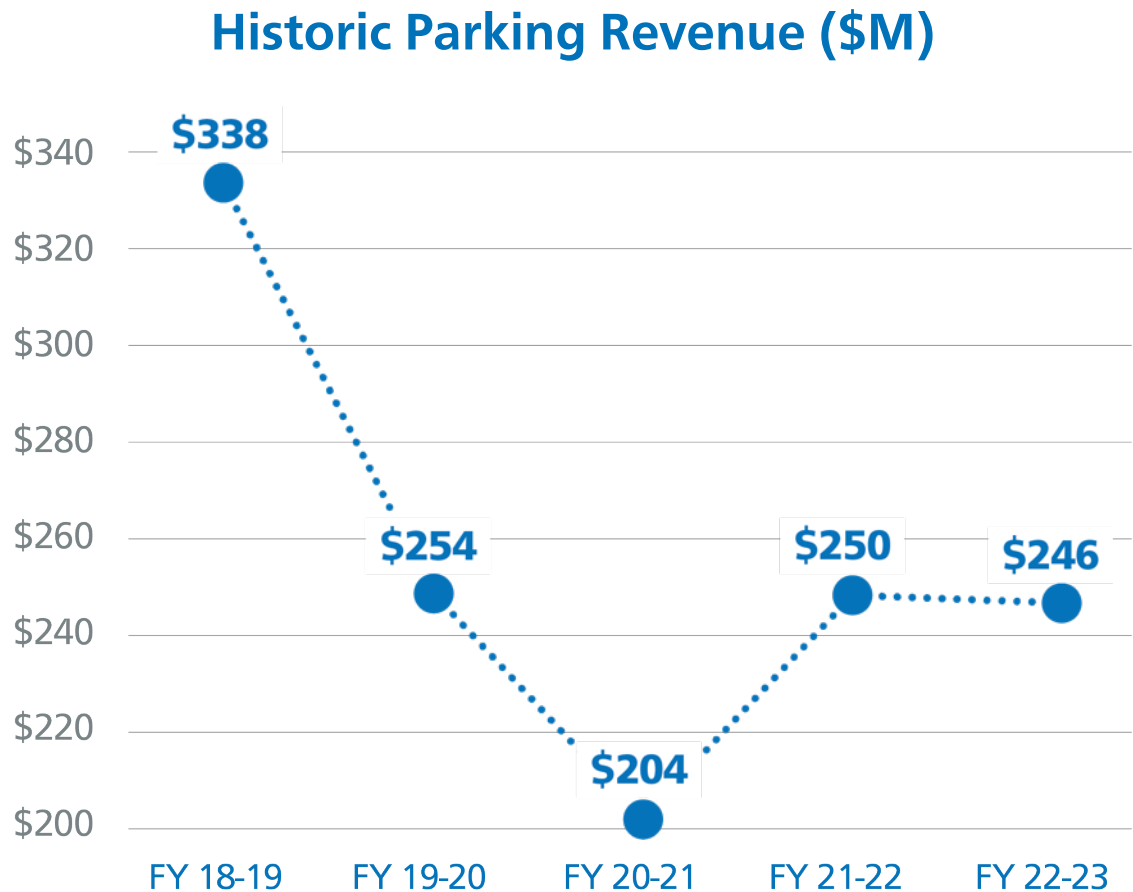
Transit Revenue is Down

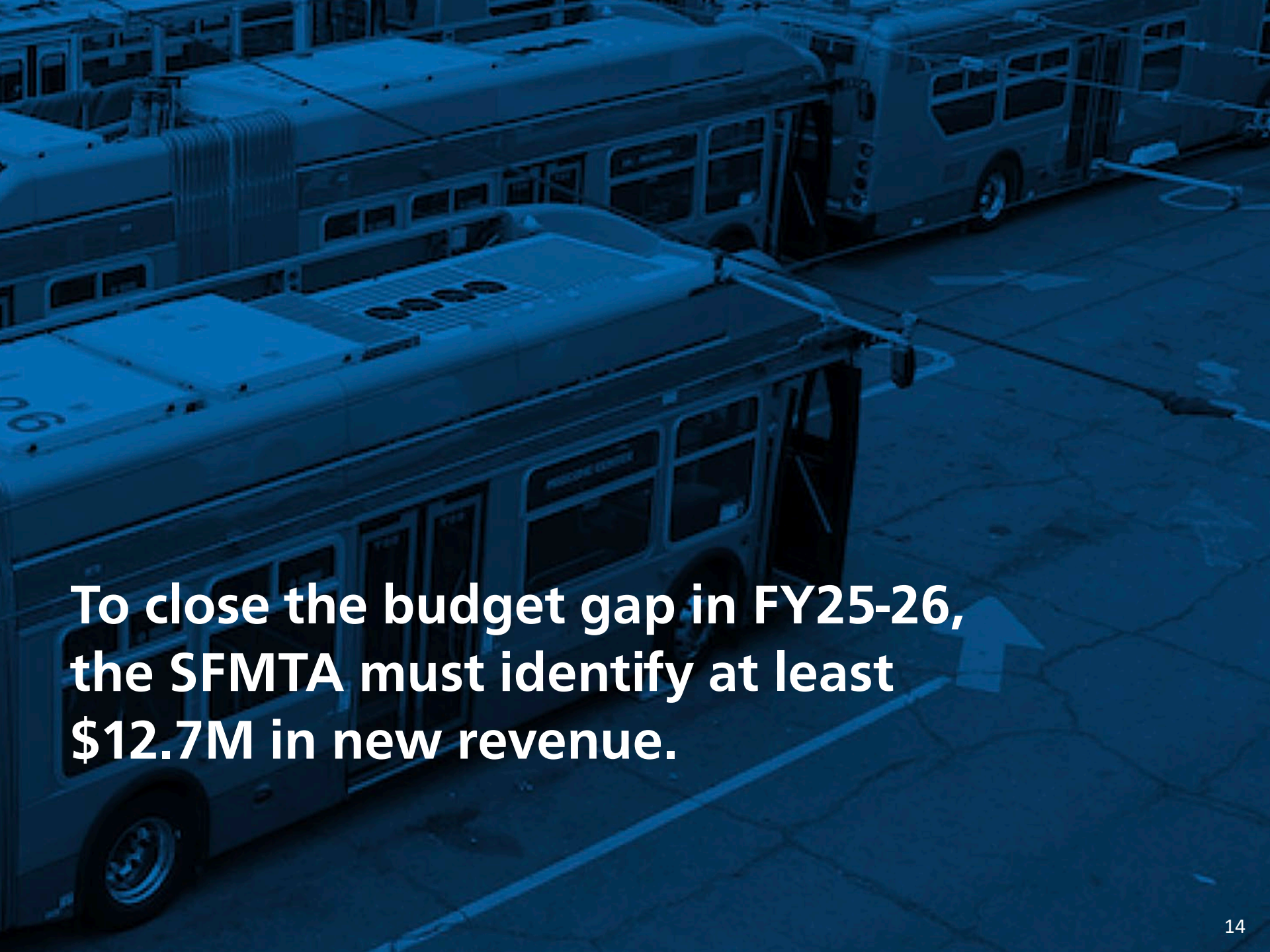
Transit revenue is **62% lower** than FY18-19, adjusted for inflation.



Parking Revenue is Down

Parking revenue is **38% lower** than FY18-19, adjusted for inflation.





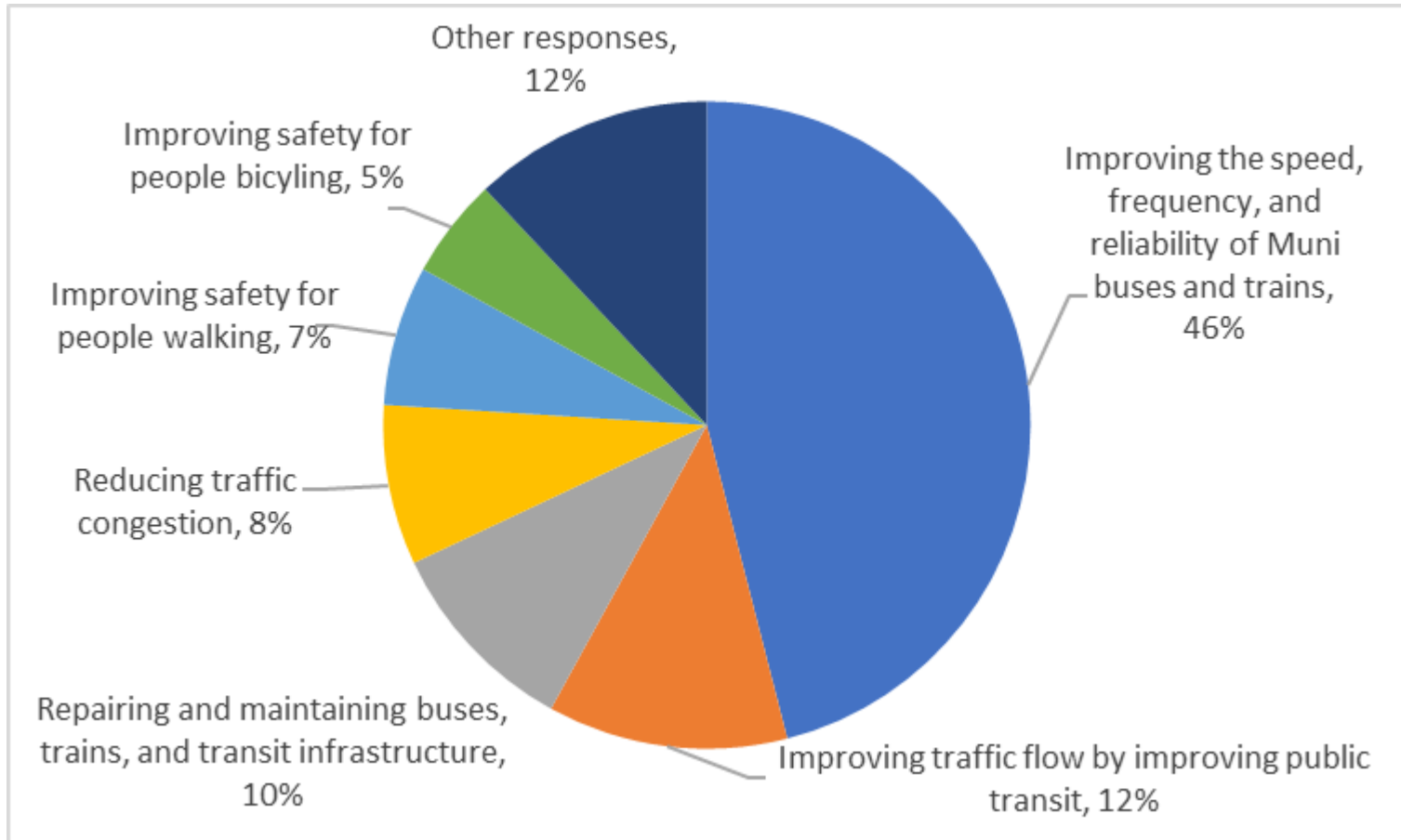
**To close the budget gap in FY25-26,
the SFMTA must identify at least
\$12.7M in new revenue.**

Reducing Spending for FY 24-25

- We're only implementing **cost-neutral service changes** for Muni.
- Years of **efficiency improvements** include:
 - Reinvest Muni travel time savings into additional service
 - Improvements to project delivery
 - Consolidation of agency functions
- In FY22-23 we limited our hiring to key positions. This saved **\$52.8 M**.
- In FY24-25 & FY25-26, we will reduce non-labor expenses (such as materials and supplies) by **\$33.7M** in FY24-25 and **\$25.5M** in FY25-26.

Community priorities

Improving Muni speed, frequency and reliability is the top community priority.



2023 SFMTA Community Survey

SFMTA Budget Strategy

- **Control expenses:** implement only cost-neutral service changes.
- **Stretch one-time sources** like federal, state and regional transportation relief.
- **Focus on FY24-25 and FY25-26** but plan for projected deficit of \$240M in FY 26-27.
- Staff have proposed **revenues that begin July 1, 2024** to close FY 24-25 and FY25-26 gap.

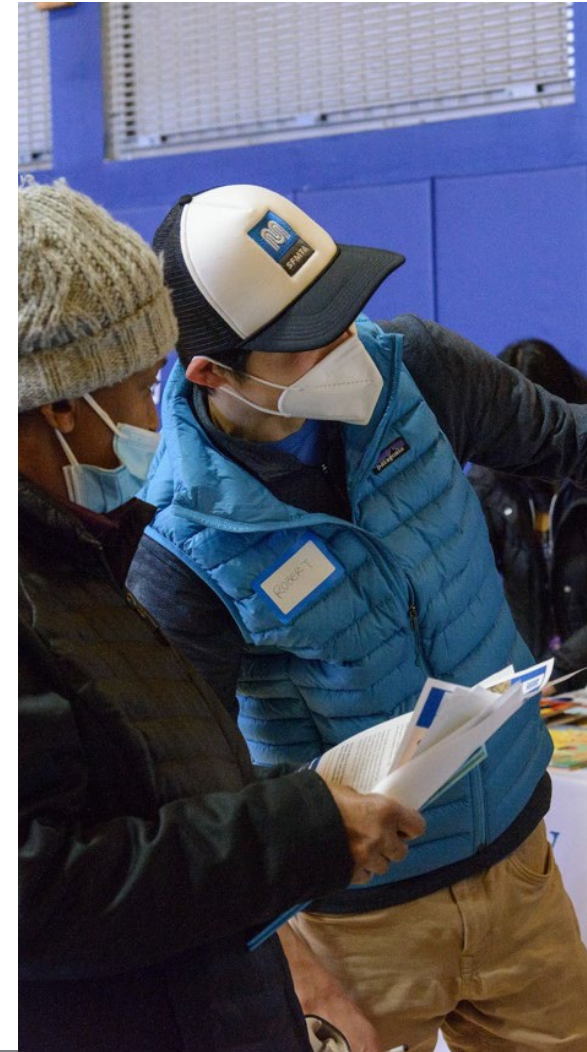


Summary of Staff Recommendations

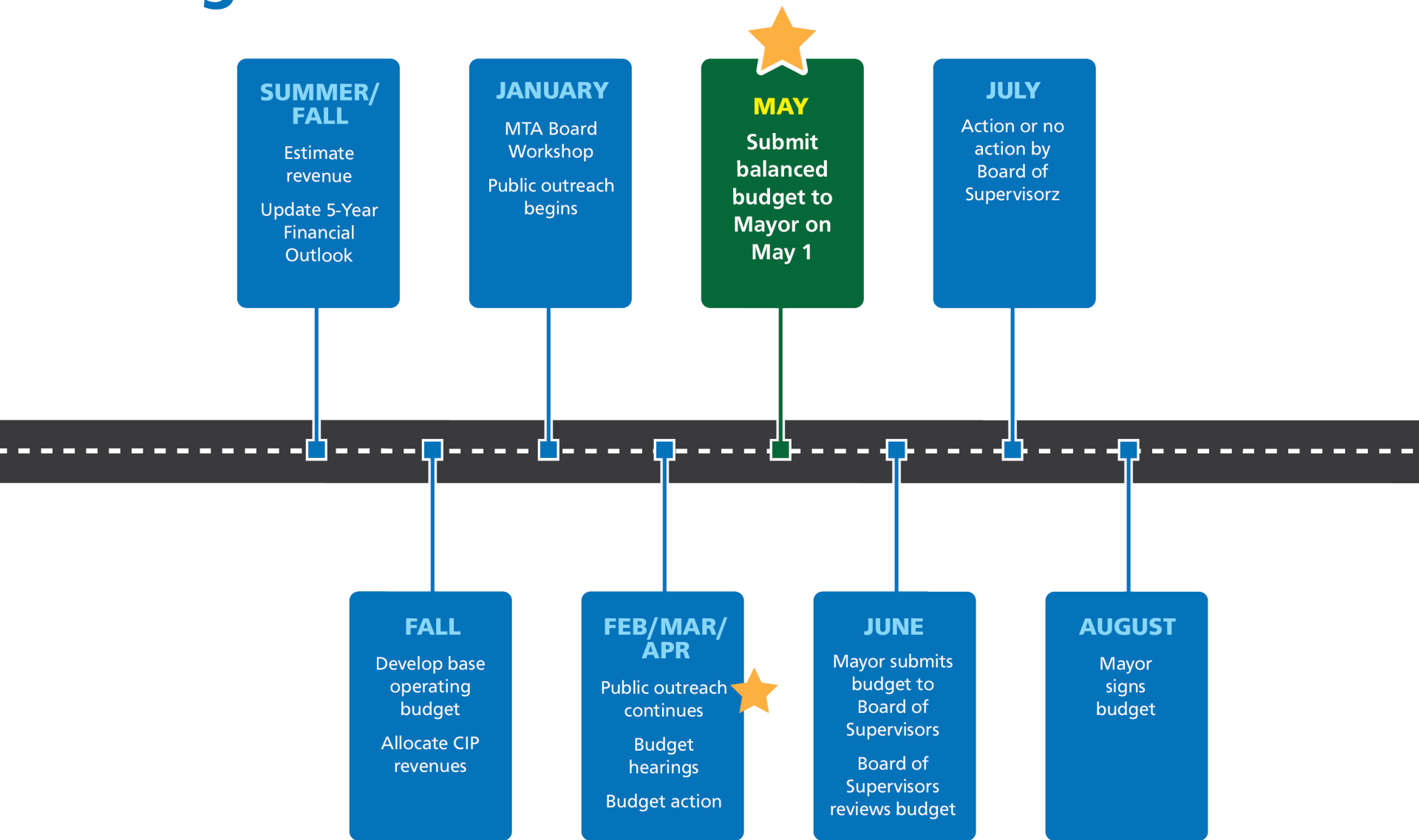
Category	Option	2-Year Total Revenue	Cost for customers over two years (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026)
Muni fares	Eliminate Clipper discount over two years Cash fare remains the same	\$5.2 million	+\$0.25 in year one +\$0.25 in year two
Parking fines	Increase by 5%	\$3.7 million	+\$9 for a street cleaning ticket over two years +\$7 for a parking meter violation over two years
RPP fees	Implement inflation indexing + additional costs	\$2.9 million	+\$20 the first year +\$25 the second year
Taxi fees	Reinstate taxi fees and apply inflation indexing	\$1.2 million	Cost impacts taxi companies.

Public Outreach Plans

- Meetings with SFMTA Citizen Advisory Council, San Francisco Youth Commission, SFMTA Youth Advisory Council
- Two citywide listening sessions:
 - Thurs., Feb. 22 virtual (on Zoom)
 - Saturday, March 2 in-person (SF Public Library Richmond branch)
- Meetings with community-based organizations, merchant groups and others to gather their feedback.



Budget Timeline



Questions? Comments?
Suggestions?

