

# Budget & Policy Priorities for 2017-18 & 2018-19



## SF Youth Commission City And County Of San Francisco



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## INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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*Chair Matz and her brother at SFO's 2017 travel ban protests*

San Francisco is a study in contradictions. In the Mission, it feels like summer all year round, while the outer Sunset remains blanketed with fog no matter the season. Past our microclimates, our differences run deeper. Extreme wealth coexists alongside poverty, and our robust economy is accompanied by displacement of our most vulnerable—and vital—communities. Despite the challenges we face, our city has always been enriched by being home to many diverse communities.

The San Francisco Youth Commission, tasked by voters since 1996 with addressing the unmet needs of youth, has attempted to remedy some of the inequities we face in the city we love. While our society often silences the voices of youth, San Francisco's commitment to youth voice is evident in the many ways young people have taken up leadership roles in recent years. From the Free

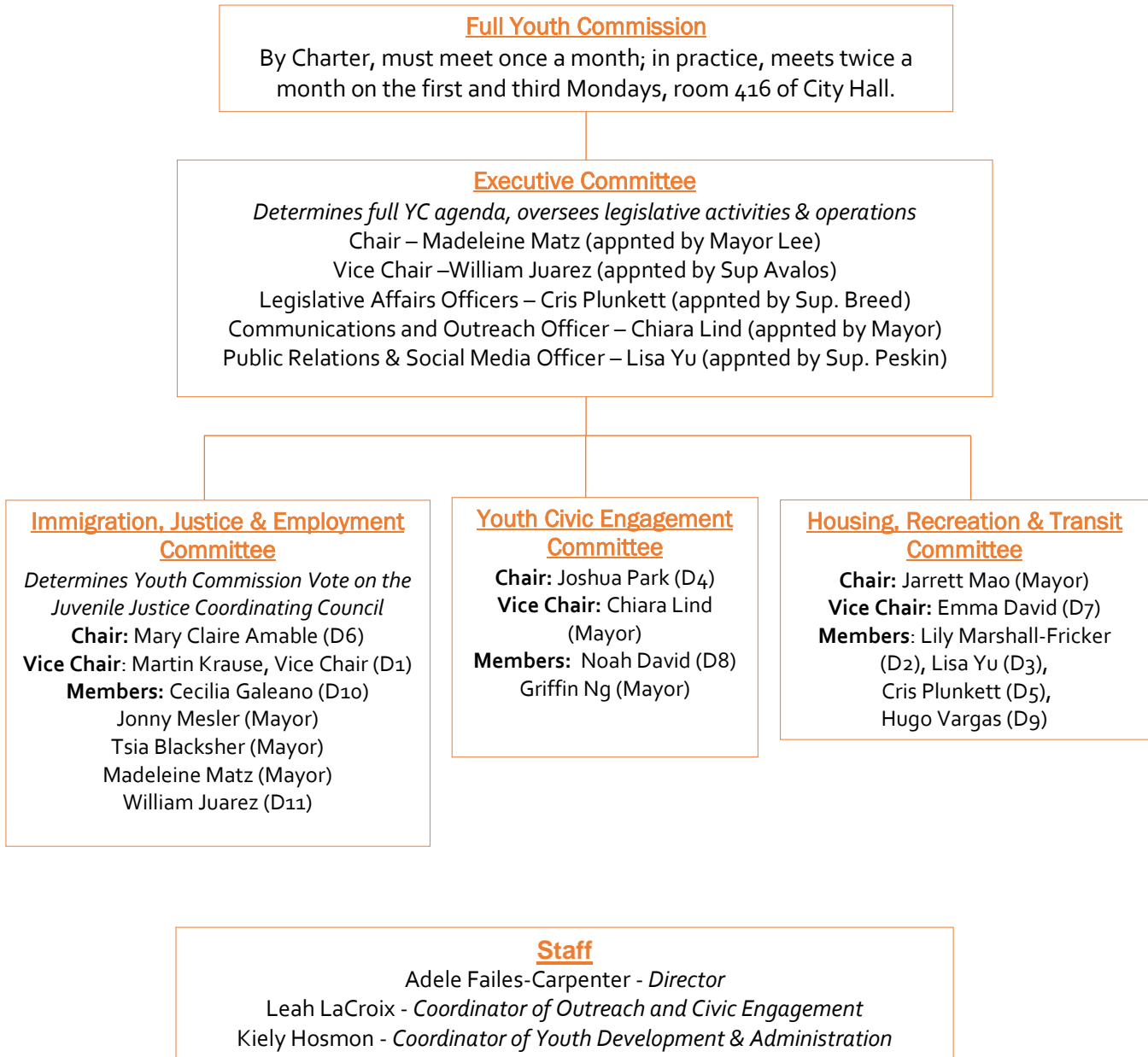
MUNI for youth and Solutions Not Suspensions campaigns of recent years, to Vote16 in 2016 and student-led protests against the actions of the Trump administration, we know young people are ready to lead. The 21-year existence of our commission is also evidence of the value and potential of youth voice. Youth Commissioners have all strived to use our commission to advocate alongside youth from vulnerable communities. I am proud to have worked with such dedicated young people on a range of issues from jail-visiting policies to voter registration efforts.

This year, our national political climate was discouraging. President Trump consistently threatened and impinged the rights of our communities, and departments from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Department of Education put forth visions that do not reflect San Francisco's values. In the face of this, the Commission hosted a Youth Unity and Solidarity Rally and several large-scale events for youth to reflect on the outcome of, and response to, the national election. We worked hard to use our anger to energize our work, and we are proud to put forward this set of 12 policy and budget priorities to guide the City's investments in young people's wellbeing and leadership during this challenging time in both our City and our country.

**As we face these challenges, we know that young people—particularly in San Francisco—have always been at the forefront of movements for social change and justice. With unwavering commitment to that history and its future, the Youth Commission presents these 12 annual Budget and Policy Priorities for your consideration and action.**

Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission

# YOUTH COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# **YOUTH COMMISSION POLICY & BUDGET PRIORITIES**

*For Fiscal Years 2017-18 & 2018-19*

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# PRIORITY 1: RESOURCE YOUTH ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP AMIDST INCREASED ATTACKS ON OUR COMMUNITIES

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*Urging for increased planning and investment in youth-led organizing with the Children & Youth Fund's Youth Empowerment Allocation and a youth leadership development pipeline to build leadership for the long-term*

## BACKGROUND

In 2016, the San Francisco Youth Commission celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its first class was sworn in after voters approved Proposition F creating a Youth Commission in 1995. Also in 2016, we celebrated the election of former San Francisco youth commissioners as the youngest Mayor in Berkeley's history, member of the City College Board of Trustees, and youngest member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee; and the appointment of still several more youth commission alumni to other posts, including the Student Trustee to the UC Board of Regents and the San Francisco County Juvenile Justice Commission. Finally, in 2016, we also saw the mobilization of hundreds of San Francisco high school students both in the halls of City Hall and the streets of their own neighborhoods in support of an historic effort to lower the local voting age. This was an especially important movement and moment, given the pitch of political disagreement and cynicism that characterized national elections.

*"The hate, bullying, and anti-democratic values that were on display during the 2016 election highlight the urgent need to develop young people's capacity to participate in the ongoing work of building democracy, as well as to enlist them in developing solutions."*

The legacy of youth-led efforts like the Free MUNI for Youth campaign, Vote16, Solutions not



*Youth Unity & Solidarity Rally, April 2017*

Suspensions, and others is living proof that youth organizing works—in changing hearts and minds, making lasting impacts in the lives of young people and developing their social justice leadership, and quite often—in winning real and lasting change.

## Responding to National Events

The election of Donald Trump in November 2016, has led to increased attacks on our many communities, on public education, and on civic life. The hate, bullying, and anti-democratic values that were on display during the 2016 election highlight the urgent need to develop young people's capacity to participate in the ongoing work of building democracy, as well as to enlist them in developing

solutions to the many ecological and social challenges they already face and will inherit responsibility for solving.

In 2017, Youth Commissioners took decisive action against the hate-filled rhetoric and racism that was on display in the President's attempted Muslim ban and roll-back of protections for transgender students. In January, shortly after Trump's inauguration, we hosted a townhall (see Priority 2 for more information) of over 80 young people at SF Public Library's (SFPL) The Mix to discuss how young people can support one another and get involved in work for social justice. In April, we passed [Resolution 1617-AL-02](#) [Resolution responding to the Presidency of Donald Trump and reaffirming San Francisco's Youth's commitment to the values of community, respect and solidarity, and urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support young people's leadership during this critical time]. We hosted a Youth Solidarity & Unity Rally with LGBTQ, Black, immigrant, Arab, and Muslim youth on the steps of City Hall that same month.

## Youth Organizing and the Youth Empowerment Allocation

In March 2017, the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families released their draft Service Allocation Plan to guide its investments over the next five years, beginning in 2018 and ending in 2023. As part of both the original and subsequently reauthorized Children & Youth Fund, 3% of the fund is meant to be dedicated to youth-initiated and youth-led projects. Currently, this investment funds the annual Youth Advocacy Day, Youth Philanthropy (mini-grant-making), and a Youth Organizing Strategy.

Youth Commissioners believe that youth organizing is a key youth development practice and priority for the Youth Empowerment Allocation. Youth organizing engages directly impacted young people to acquire organizing skills, develop their political consciousness, build their knowledge of community issues, and take collective action. Youth organizing builds young people's competencies, their investment in their community, and both individual and collective leadership. It allows young people to see tangible impacts and their own ability to make a difference. Research done with young people taking part in youth organizing efforts showed that students' grades improved and 60% reported that they took more challenging coursework due to their involvement in organizing. Eighty percent of youth reported plans to pursue a college education and half said they expected to obtain a graduate or other degree beyond college.<sup>1</sup>

**“[We] believe that organizing is a key youth development practice...Youth organizing engages directly-impacted young people to acquire organizing skills, develop their political consciousness, build their knowledge of community issues, and take collective action.”**

Youth Commissioners believe now is a particularly critical time to invest in the social justice leadership of young San Franciscans. With this in mind, Youth Commissioners hosted a youth townhall in partnership with the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families and SFPL's The Mix in May 2017. "Key to the City: A Youth Townhall on Youth Leadership, Empowerment, and Organizing" drew over 70 youth who came to speak about the types of investments the City should make in youth leadership. Youth Commissioners facilitated discussion and feedback sessions to guide their recommendations regarding the City's investments in youth leadership and empowerment.

<sup>1</sup> 11th issue of the Occasional Papers Series, "Building Transformative Youth Leadership," Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing; <https://fcyo.org/resources/type/research>

## Results from the May 2017 Youth Leadership Townhall

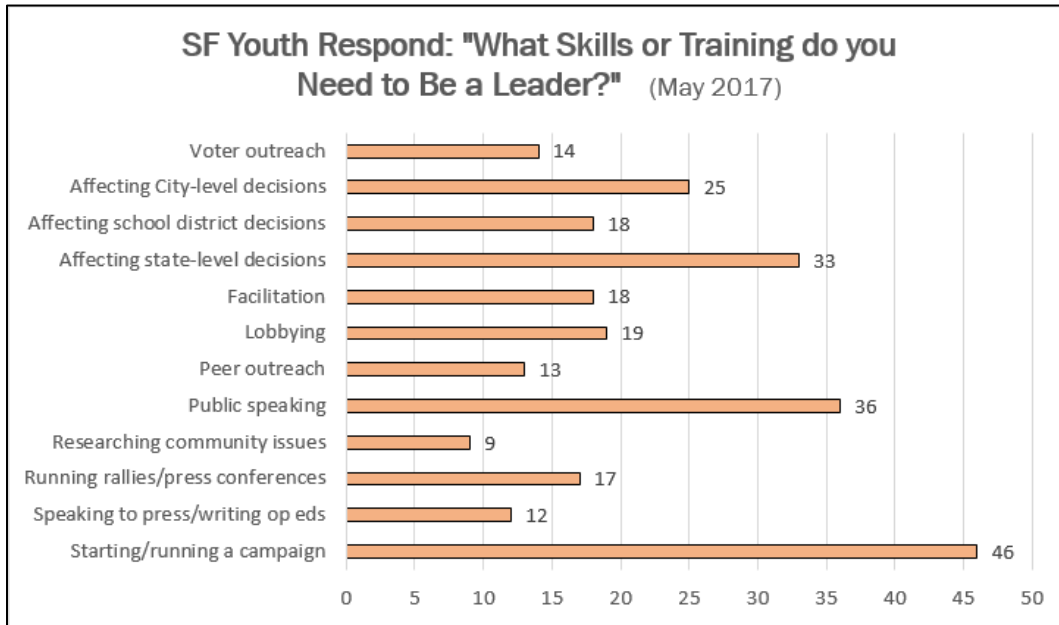


Figure A: Youths' Needs for Skill Development

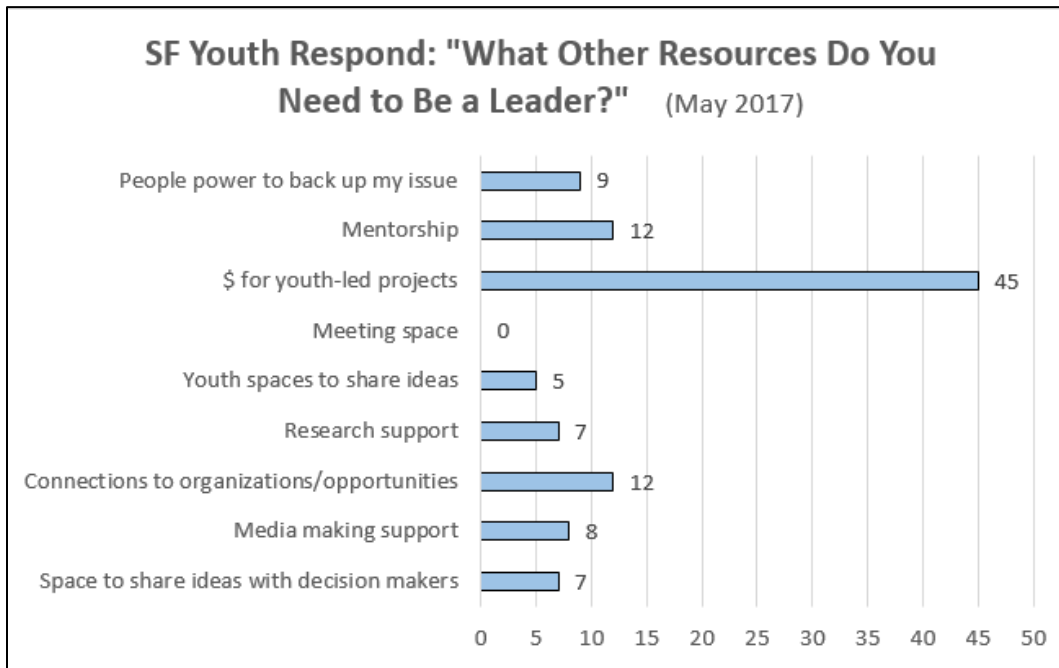


Figure B: Youths' Needs for Leadership Resources



## SF Youth Respond: “What Issues are You Most Passionate About Working On?”



Figure C: Issues Most Important to SF Youth, May 2017

### “Why Now?” The need to invest in the leadership of young San Franciscans at this time

During this year, and at the May 2017 townhall, Youth Commissioners collected feedback and insight on how and why our current moment requires increased support for youth leadership. Accordingly, Youth Commissioners, in close consultation with youth leaders citywide, propose that the following insights help outline the current need for investment in youth leadership:

1. **Young San Franciscans need to have a say in shaping the future of a rapidly changing City.** San Francisco has the lowest percentage of families with children of any U.S. city. Young San Franciscans make up one group of long-time residents that are seldom heard from in policy setting and cannot cast their own votes. Amidst rapid gentrification and increasing displacement, young people need to be heard, and they need to be part of shaping solutions.
2. **There is a strong need for a community leadership pipeline to recruit and retain qualified and dedicated leaders.** Recruiting and retaining qualified and committed staff in youth- and family-serving community organizations is an increasing challenge for City-funded agencies. Staff turnover has an enormous impact in the quality of services available to our

communities. Preparing young San Franciscans, who have a deep commitment to both place and community, to serve as service providers and advocates, is one needed solution. Currently, the City invests in public service pathways for high school freshman and sophomores through the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education program and for high school juniors and seniors through YouthWorks. Connecting similar opportunities for transitional age youth that are ready to enter the workforce with political education and advocacy skills training is one promising approach that should be explored.

3. **There is increasing awareness of the need for youth voice on decision-making bodies, but little dedicated support.** Increasingly, youth seats are being added onto existing adult-oriented advisory and oversight bodies. There are long-standing youth seats on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Reentry Council. In recent years, the Board of Supervisors has added standing youth seats to the Our Children, Our Families Council, the Children, Youth & Families Oversight and Advisory Committee, and the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee. These are promising developments. However, young people need additional support and preparation to be effective and confident presences on adult-dominated bodies. Furthermore, adult officials and staff associated with those bodies require support and training in order to build effective youth-adult partnerships. Outside of the limited number of appointments within the already-demanding public service roles of the Youth Commission, SFPL Board of Advising Youth, and the DCYF Youth Advisory Board, there are limited opportunities for young people to access the training and coaching that would prepare them for roles on youth-adult bodies. The Citywide Transitional Age Youth Advisory Board ceased operations in 2016.
4. **There is low voter turnout among young people and in San Francisco's lowest income communities.** Voters under 30 have the lowest voter turnout rate of any age group nationally, and within San Francisco. The Bayview and Visitacion Valley, the two neighborhoods with the highest number of families with children, and home to many of San Francisco's remaining low-income communities of color, have the lowest voter turnout rates in the City.
5. **We are witnessing increasing attacks on public education, the environment, and on immigrant, Black, Muslim, and LGBTQ communities.** The appointment of an Education Secretary who is openly hostile to public education, alongside executive orders targeting Arab, Muslim, immigrant, and LGBTQ communities, and Department of Justice orders that would turn back the clock on criminal justice reform efforts, all highlight the need to build the leadership of young people to respond. The responses to these increased attacks on our communities and public education will multiply points of entry into social justice work for young San Franciscans in the next decade, but we need to step up to the challenge of responding to young people's interest in leading. Young people are ready to resist divide-and-conquer tactics, connect their issues, and to lead on the issues that impact them.

## What principles should guide investments in young people's leadership?

Youth Commissioners, through intensive discussion with youth leaders citywide, propose that the following principles should be used to guide the City's investments in youth leadership:

### We believe in...

1. **The importance of youth organizing for social justice.** Youth organizing allows young people to research a systemic problem in their communities, develop specific asks of decision-makers, create a plan for addressing the problem, and bring people together to take action toward a vision of change. Youth organizing prepares young people to engage in advocacy, analyze community- and system-level issues, change power relations, and create lasting change.
2. **Young people's capacity and right to lead change efforts.** Young people have historically been at the forefront of movements for social change, especially in San Francisco. Young people will be the most impacted by the effects of policy decisions that are made today, and they need to be involved in guiding our way forward. All young people have a right to work to improve the quality of life in their communities. They have the ability and the right to define the root causes of problems and to hold institutions and decision-makers accountable.
3. **Leadership by those most affected.** Those closest to the problem are closest to the solutions. The leadership of low-income youth of color and LGBTQ youth is urgently needed. We need to promote civic engagement efforts that appeal to and address the lived realities of young people of color—including organizing.
4. **Solidarity, unity and alliance.** All youth have a stake in social justice and the ability to do meaningful work for social justice, both on those issues that directly impact them, and in alliance with other communities. The issues of most concern to young people—racial justice, LGBTQ issues, environmental justice, and gender equality—are deeply inter-connected. Young people are willing to take risks, keep open minds, and build alliances across issues.
5. **Dedicated support for young people's participation.** Young people deserve more than to simply be invited to show up and speak their truth. They deserve the support needed to build the skills and analysis that will allow them to be effective agents for change. This includes political education and advocacy training, mentorship, and compensation for their work advising adults.
6. **Youth empowerment as youth development and community development.** Young people's discovery of their individual and collective power helps to shift their sense of self, their own agency, their educational motivation and performance, their social relationships, and their expectations for their futures. Young people's involvement in organizing can help improve neighborhoods, schools, and government decision-making and develop a base of trained leaders with long-term commitments to community work.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

7. **Developing leadership for the long term.** Young people will be living with the long-term effects of today's policy decisions. They will be charged with solving complex social and environmental problems and we need to be building their leadership now. Youth who become involved in organizing tend to plan to remain committed to activism for the long-term.<sup>3</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth Commissioners' recommendations for San Francisco's investments in youth leadership and empowerment, and for the 3% CYF Youth Empowerment Allocation in particular are:

- 1) **Ongoing and increased investment in youth organizing.** San Francisco needs continuing investment in youth organizing strategies that are policy-focused and build young people's engagement in City government. We would like young people to have the chance to identify issues of importance to them, develop specific asks of decision-makers, create a plan for addressing the problem, and move peers and community members to get active on their issue. These opportunities will make government more responsive to young people, allow youth to feel a sense of their own power, and build an understanding of the functioning of school district, local, and state government and how young people can impact decisions there.
- 2) **Skill-building and training opportunities.** City and school district partners should collaborate and invest in developing and providing a core leadership curriculum to youth advocates, organizers, and advisors, with a focus on understanding city government and school district, understanding the nature of policy change and the legislative process, and strategic approaches to researching, proposing, and advocating for change. The Youth Commission regularly opens its core trainings up to youth serving on other city and/or school district advisory bodies, however, the training series is only offered once a year, enrollment capacity is limited, and the ability to modify curriculum to be relevant to other advisory bodies and/or advocacy efforts is limited in its current framework.
- 3) **Convenings where youth can engage across neighborhoods and issues.** Building strong and effective networks of youth advocates and leaders requires opportunities for sharing and mutual learning. Youth advocates need chances to connect with others across organizations and neighborhoods, learn from peers working on related issues, develop shared strategies, and share best practices and tools.
- 4) **Support for the development of a citywide youth platform outlining issues of importance to young people.** Through the coordination of learning and convening spaces as mentioned above, young people could develop a "platform" of issues they are interested in working on and coordinating efforts on. This "platform" would allow young people to identify issues of primary importance to them during a difficult time in both local and national history. It would help align training opportunities, and could provide a framework for public and private investment in youth leadership in San Francisco.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

- 5) **Investment in a Leadership Pipeline for San Francisco.** We propose the development of a comprehensive leadership pipeline for young people that includes:

Scalable tools that allow students to learn organizing skills, develop analysis, and take action in their neighborhoods and on their campuses. These could include toolkits, curriculum, and best practice guides that link to training and convening opportunities.

Community organizing opportunities for high school students that map on to post-secondary education/training, fellowships, and/or employment opportunities for older youth. This would serve as a coordinated pathway to introduce young people to organizing, develop their skills, and transition them to further leadership and employment opportunities, consistent with the need to get young San Franciscans interested in the field of youth development and community service. This could also encompass agreements with post-secondary institutions. When done well, this pathway will help us make large impacts, grow new leaders for the long term, and build a more inclusive City.

- 6) **Leadership development practices and opportunities integrated across the city's investments in youth services.** Youth inclusion in decision-making is a best practice for youth-serving organizations and should be considered a baseline for providing effective and competent services to young people. Reserving the Youth Empowerment Allocation for youth-led leadership and advocacy opportunities can help raise the bar for the inclusion of youth leadership development components across all programs.
- 7) **Investment in voter registration and turnout.** Invest in voter registration and education, especially for high school age youth, ensuring all 16-17 year olds have the opportunity to pre-register to vote under the new state law.
- 8) **Support for youth sitting on advisory bodies.** As part of the effort to recruit and train a pool of qualified applicants, and to support City advisory bodies in receiving the full value of young people's advising insight, we propose an increased commitment to mentorship and training for youth serving on City advisory bodies; training on youth-adult partnerships for board and commission staff and chairs working in partnership with youth on joint youth-adult bodies; and stipend compensation for young people sitting on adult-led bodies or for providing advising and guidance to adults.

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## **PRIORITY 2: IMPROVE VOTER TURNOUT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PRE-REGISTRATION OF 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS**

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*Urging investment in, and recognition of the importance of efforts to increase voter pre-registrations among 16 and 17 year olds through partnerships with the school district, Department of Children, Youth, and their Families and the Department of Elections*

### **BACKGROUND:**

San Francisco is leading the fight against the Trump administration's threats to our City and our values. Soon after the 2016 election, President-elect Trump tweeted a widely-debunked myth about voter fraud, saying that he would have won the popular vote if not for the "millions of people who voted illegally."<sup>1</sup> His remarks signaled a coming attack on voting rights, which came to fruition with the establishment of a 'voter fraud' commission led by voter ID advocate, Kris Kobach, in May 2017.<sup>2</sup>

These moves follow attempts by several states to roll back voting rights and voter access following the Supreme Court's 2013 repeal of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. However, some states, California among them, have responded to these changes by attempting to expand voter access, by expanding early voting, vote-by-mail, and voter registration efforts through the DMV, public colleges, and school districts.

In 2014, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 113 by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) allowing voter pre-registration beginning at age 16, making California the 21st state to allow pre-registration.<sup>3</sup> Pre-registration allows 16 and 17 year olds to register to vote for the first election they are eligible for, after reaching age 18. Online pre-registration became available in 2017, and as of May 2017, San Francisco has pre-registered 512 16 and 17 year olds.<sup>4</sup>

Strong voter turnout and voter engagement is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Research indicates that pre-registering 16 and 17 year olds bridges the long-standing gap between young voters and the ballot box—building lifelong voters and strengthening our democracy in the process.<sup>5</sup> Voters ages 18-30 have the lowest voter turnout of any age group. These trends are more pronounced among youth of color. In California, during the 2012 election, only 46% of eligible Latino youth, 41% of Asian

<sup>1</sup> Shear and Huetteman, "Trump Repeats Lie About Popular Vote in Meeting with Lawmakers," New York Times, January 23, 2017; Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/23/us/politics/donald-trump-congress-democrats.html>

<sup>2</sup> Davis, Julie, "Trump Picks Voter ID Advocate for Election Fraud Panel," New York Times, May 11, 2017; Available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/15/opinion/trump-voter-fraud-commission.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/15/opinion/trump-voter-fraud-commission.html?_r=0)

<sup>3</sup> Secretary of State: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2017-news-releases-and-advisories/16-and-17-year-olds-can-now-pre-register-vote-online/>

<sup>4</sup> Department of Elections: [http://www.sfelections.org/tools/election\\_data/](http://www.sfelections.org/tools/election_data/)

<sup>5</sup> Eric Plutzer, "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth," The American Political Science Review 96/1 (March 2002), pp. 41-56.

American/Pacific Islander eligible youth, 59% of white eligible youth, and 54% of African American eligible youth were registered to vote, and those numbers were still far lower during the 2014 mid-term elections.<sup>6</sup>

Despite this, we know that young people—particularly young San Franciscans—*want* to vote. According to the 2016 Youth Vote Student Survey, of 3,654 SFUSD high school students surveyed, 74.33% of students would either “absolutely” or “most likely” register and vote, if given the chance to do so at 16 or 17.<sup>7</sup> Educating and engaging more young people on the rights and responsibilities of voting is among the best of ways to encourage everyone, including and especially young people, to exercise their right to vote—and we hope, to vigorously defend this right against further attacks.

**16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS IN SF WANT TO VOTE.**

	“ABSOLUTELY” REGISTER AND VOTE	“MOST LIKELY” REGISTER AND VOTE	TOTAL
ALL STUDENTS (3,654 surveyed)	35.16%	39.17%	74.33%
LATINOS	43.75%	33.79%	77.54%
AFRICAN AMERICANS	44.65%	30.19%	74.84%
ASIANS	30.94%	40.9%	71.84%

*Youth Vote Student Survey, Fall 2015*

Figure D: SF High School Students’ Interest in Voting

## RECENT UPDATES

In May 2016, Youth Commissioners and student leaders urged the Board of Supervisors to invest in voter turnout and the civic and political development of young people by supporting a charter amendment lowering San Francisco’s legal voting age to sixteen. Following the first-ever joint Board of Supervisors and Youth Commission meeting, in which hundreds of youth showed up to the full board meeting and gave hours of public comment, supervisors voted 9-2 to allow this issue to be brought toward the voters of San Francisco in the form of a new name Proposition F. Proposition F lost by just 2.1% at the polls, but the effort showed the ability of young people to unite and engage their peers, decision-makers, and the public on a complex issue. Proposition F was almost entirely youth run, and had the second largest group of 2016 campaign volunteers in San Francisco, made almost exclusively of Bay Area youth. Six of the Board of Supervisors who served during the 2016 term signed on as co-sponsors, along with all of the San Francisco’s state legislators, Leader Pelosi, the entire school board, and dozens of community groups.



Young and Future Voters’ Forum, Nov. 2016

<sup>6</sup> California Civic Engagement Project: <http://ccep.ucdavis.edu/policy-briefs/>

<sup>7</sup> 2015-16 Youth Vote Student Survey Results. Provided by SFUSD Peer Resources

The effort showed clear interest in investing in voting rights and civic participation among young San Franciscans. Young San Franciscans also showed their interest in being politically involved through their attendance at two events hosted by the Youth Commission's Civic Engagement committee this term. The first was hosting a Young and Future Voters' Forum in mid-October 2016 that had youth facilitators from the San Francisco Youth Commission, the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, SFUSD Peer Resources, Generation Citizen, and Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center leading discussions on local ballot issues addressing education, democracy and voting rights, housing and public safety. The event included on-site voter registration and concluded with participants taking part in a mock vote. The second town hall event, in late January 2017, was called "What Now?": A Youth Led Post-Inauguration Gathering and was a one of a kind election debrief that was funded and planned by youth leaders and community organizations in San Francisco (San Francisco Youth Commission, Vote16 Youth Empowerment Academy, SFUSD Student Advisory Council, etc.) that

*"Pre-registration can increase young voter turnout by up to 13 percentage points. And young people who vote at an early age are more likely to stay engaged and vote in later elections. These findings encourage us to believe wholeheartedly in the process of pre-registration and its importance to young people and our democracy."*

gave a space for distressed or confused youth from the election results. Youth and allies came together to process the election and inauguration through discussion, artistic expression, and advocacy outlets. From this event they learned how to channel post-election anxieties into inspiration and activism.



*"What Now?" Post-Inauguration Town hall*

Youth Commissioners believe we can build on this positive momentum by attending to the new state policy allowing 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote. The Youth Commission has also felt the negative effects of the 2016 national election and believes that now, more than ever, is the time to encourage youth to participate in our democracy. Pre-registering to vote at 16 or 17 is a first step in civic engagement and voter participation.

According to Path to the Polls, a 2016 published report on pre-registration in California, pre-registration can increase young voter turnout by up to 13 percentage points. And young people who vote at an early age are more likely to stay engaged and vote in later elections.<sup>8</sup> These findings encourage us to believe wholeheartedly in the process of pre-registration and its importance to young people and

<sup>8</sup> Path to the Polls: Preregistering California's Youth to Build a More Participatory Democracy; Alana Miller, Frontier Group; Emily Rusch, CALPIRG Education Fund; Rosalind Gold and Ofelia Medina, NALEO Educational Fund; September 2016; Available at: <http://calpirgedfund.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/CALPIRG%20NALEO%20-%20Path%20to%20the%20Polls%20-%20Sept%202016.pdf>



*“The Youth Commission has also felt the negative effects of the 2016 national election and believes that now, more than ever, is the time to encourage youth to participate in our democracy.”*

our democracy. We have developed specific requests from partnering agencies, departments, and organizations to help us achieve our goal of increasing the number of 16 and 17 year olds pre-registered.

In February 2017, we met with Dr. Maria Su, the Director of Department of Children Youth and their Families to request that any older-youth grantee of DCYF after the 2017 request for proposal (RFP) process be required to offer the option of pre-registration to their youth participants. Also in February 2017, we have continued a partnership with the Department of Elections and have received a presentation on the current numbers of 16 and 17 year olds

pre-registered, a training on how to legally and ethically implement voter registration, and have acquired special pre-registration forms that will allow Department of Elections to track how many youth the Youth Commission have preregistered. In late April 2017, we met with the Student Advisory Council to ask for feedback to increase voter registration and outreach at the district level, and presented to the Board of Education to request support implementing the previously-passed Board of Education Resolution 162-23A3 -- Encouraging Students to Exercise Their Voting Rights.<sup>9</sup>

In early May 2017, we attended a Board of Education Curriculum and Program Committee meeting with the Student Advisory Council and we gave a presentation on the work that the Civic Engagement Committee has been doing this year on pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds, and gave the suggestions on how to move pre-registration efforts forward at the school district. The Youth Commission will be meeting with individual members of the Curriculum and Program Committee who will help connect us to the staff in the Humanities Department of SFUSD in the hopes that we can start implementing a process in classes to outreach to sophomores and juniors in SFUSD.

At the same time that we were meeting and presenting with future collaborators, in mid-April 2017 Youth Commissioners applied for a Youth Leadership Institute B.L.I.N.G. (Building Leaders in Innovative New Giving) grant to fund youth-led pre-registration work for half of next year and found out in early May 2017 we received the grant! The Youth Commission very much wants to thank Youth Funding Youth Ideas (YFYI) via Communities in Harmony Advocating for Learning and Kids (CHALK) which funded the “What Now” event in January and the Youth Leadership Institute’s B.L.I.N.G. program for their decision to fund some of our implementation work to increase voter pre-registration with 16 and 17 year olds.

Finally, the twenty-eighth Assembly District Assembly member, Evan Low, has introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) which would lower the state’s voting age from 18 years-old to 17 years-old. The Youth Commission passed a resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to go on record supporting of state bill ACA-10. Commissioners passed [Resolution 1617-AL-05](#) [Resolution Urging the Board of Supervisors to Support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10, Allowing 17 year Olds to Vote in State Elections] at the Monday, April 17, 2017 meeting, and are proud to support this important effort.

<sup>9</sup> San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education Resolution 162-23A3 -- Encouraging Students To Exercise Their Voting Rights adopted April 12, 2016; Available at: <http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/about-SFUSD/files/board-agendas/Agenda4122016-1.pdf>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The new state pre-registration law, while promising, means very little without a commitment on the part of the City and school district to implementing successful pre-registration efforts. We look forward to working with City partners to ensure the successful pre-registration of 16-17 year old youth in the city, and submit the following recommendations for the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee:

- 1) Urge DCYF to require 2018-2023 older-youth-serving grantee agencies to offer the option of pre-registering to vote to youth program participants.**

Youth Commissioners thank Dr. Maria Su for her commitment to expanding voter pre-registration opportunities.

- 2) Fund a permanent, youth-led peer-outreach effort aimed at increasing the pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds.**
- 3) Maintain and increase funding for youth-voter outreach and pre-registration efforts at Department of Elections during both election- and non-election years.**
- 4) Board of Supervisors pass a resolution in support of the Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10), which would lower the voting age from 18 years-old to 17 years-old in the state of CA.**

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## **PRIORITY 3: ADOPT A FORMAL DEFINITION OF FAMILY HOUSING AND PRIORITIZE SUITABLE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENTS.**

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*Urging the adoption of a formal definition of family housing; the incentivization of the construction of family housing; and the prioritization of families with dependents in the City's affordable housing selection process*

### **BACKGROUND**

Due to income inequality and the shortage of housing, a decreasing number of families are residing in San Francisco. This decrease is not a trivial one. Of the nation's twelve largest cities, San Francisco ranks lowest for the percentage of family households; a mere 18%. Comparatively, the nationwide average is 29.4%.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, San Francisco has the least children of any Bay Area county. Children and families are extremely important to cities. The presence of families demands a higher quality of safety and livability, builds a multi-generational community, and brings diverse cultures and perspectives.

*“Most family units are not currently occupied by families. In fact, families occupy only 30% of 3+ bedroom units. Meanwhile, 25% of families are living in Single Room Occupancies (SROs).”*

Supervisor Norman Yee, recognizing the importance of families and children, commissioned a report by the Planning Department entitled “Housing for Families with Children” released in January 2017. This report explains the current challenges that low and middle-income families face and provides several family-friendly housing policies to potentially address these challenges. The Planning Department recognizes that the two main issues impacting family housing in the City are affordability and unit size. For instance, 91% of all home sale listings in SF were either unaffordable or less than 2 bedrooms, leaving only 9% is available to families earning the median family income.<sup>2</sup>

The report also highlights the fact that most family units are not currently occupied by families. Almost all of the homes that are suited for large families are already occupied. In fact, families occupy only 30% of 3+ bedroom units. Meanwhile, 25% of families are living in Single Room Occupancies (SROs). SROs typically lack basic necessities such as full bathrooms and kitchenettes. Overcrowding is a serious issue in San Francisco, especially in neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Visitacion Valley, Downtown/Civic Center, and Oceanview. Chinatown is particularly impacted with 24% of households living in overcrowded conditions and 65% of families living in SROS are in Chinatown.<sup>3</sup> Research indicates that overcrowded environments may negatively impact children's social adjustment. Researchers note an

<sup>1</sup> Housing for Families with Children. San Francisco Planning Department. January 17, 2017:

[http://default.sfplanning.org/publications\\_reports/Family\\_Friendly\\_Briefing\\_01-17-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Family_Friendly_Briefing_01-17-17_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/other/family-housing-affordability-in-cities-report.html#calculation>

<sup>3</sup> Housing for Families with Children. San Francisco Planning Department. January 17, 2017:

[http://default.sfplanning.org/publications\\_reports/Family\\_Friendly\\_Briefing\\_01-17-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Family_Friendly_Briefing_01-17-17_FINAL.pdf)

increase in children’s misbehaviors when living in homes with more than 2.3 residents per room.<sup>4</sup> It is therefore imperative that we adopt legislation that supports the construction of family housing. Family housing is not simply an issue of property rights, it is about human rights and health.

The City’s inclusionary housing program is a useful tool for supporting families who wish to stay in San Francisco. However, the majority of inclusionary units are studios or one bedrooms and families with children or dependent elders find themselves competing for the City’s limited stock of affordable two bedroom units alongside unrelated, single adults or couples without dependent children, who are eligible for the same units.

*“Families with children or dependent elders find themselves competing for the City’s limited stock of affordable two bedroom units alongside unrelated, single adults or couples without dependent children.”*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Adopt a community informed definition of family housing into San Francisco’s General Plan.

In order to approach the lack of access to family housing, the Youth Commission firmly believes conversations between families and policymakers must take place. We must deeply explore the challenges to this housing crisis to inform viable solutions. The presentation on March 20, 2017 concerning solutions to the family housing crisis suggested that the City must first adopt a definition of family-friendly housing into its General Plan, like the City of Emeryville. To meet this goal, the City should host a series of community located listening sessions to hear from families with children and youth regarding the challenges associated with obtaining housing, and to solicit community input on a definition of family-friendly housing and desired characteristics.

### 2. Incentivize the Construction of Family Housing.

While building studio and one bedroom units are popular for developers because they yield higher profits and return on investments, these type of units do not meet the needs of families. The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to look into ways to incentivize the construction of two-or-more bed room units in both market-rate and affordable housing developments.

### 3. Prioritize Families with Dependents in the Inclusionary Housing Selection Process.

The Youth Commission also urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopting legislation to reserve and/or prioritize affordable/inclusionary units that come online and are 2-or-more bedrooms for family households with dependents, including children, youth, and seniors.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

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## **PRIORITY 4: ENSURE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RETAIL WORKERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS**

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*Urging for education, outreach, enforcement, and technical assistance resources needed to protect formula retail workers in accordance with Formula Retail Employee Rights Ordinances*

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Retail Workers’ Bill of Rights (RWBOR) also known as Formula Retail Employee Rights Ordinances (FRERO) that were primarily sponsored by then-Supervisors David Chiu and Eric Mar. Youth Commissioners held an afterschool hearing on the matter and voted to support the legislation at the time of its introduction.

The Formula Retail Employee Rights Ordinances subsequently took effect in July 2015 and address the fair scheduling needs of some 40,000 San Franciscans who work in formula retail establishments that have 40 or more stores worldwide. The ordinances curb unfair scheduling practices by giving workers advance notice of their schedules, compensation for cancelled shifts and hasty schedule changes, and offer part-time workers the right of first refusal on additional hours before employers make new hires.

Formula retail establishments make up a large share of the early employment experiences of young San Franciscans. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 43% of workers 16-24 years olds employed in 2016 worked in retail or food service.<sup>1</sup> That number was even higher for high-school-age workers, with 68% working in retail or food service.<sup>2</sup> As young people and students, we know first-hand the type of unfair and unmanageable scheduling practices that take place in formula retail establishments, making it difficult for young workers to balance school, familial obligations, and other priorities needed to achieve our future goals. Furthermore, young people are a particularly vulnerable population in the labor force due to our lack of previous job experience and frequent lack of awareness of our rights as workers.

**“We know first-hand the type of unfair and unmanageable scheduling practices that take place in formula retail establishments, making it difficult for young workers to balance school, familial obligations, and other priorities needed to achieve our future goals.”**

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics; Retrieved at: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/youth.t03.htm>

<sup>2</sup> National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Division of Safety Research; Retrieved at: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/chtpkgfig3.html>

Currently, FRERO enforcement and compliance efforts are complaint-driven. The effectiveness of the complaint-driven enforcement system is complicated by the fact that few workers are aware of the new law. According to preliminary results from a Formula Retail Employee Outreach Survey conducted by Chinese Progressive Association, 0% of formula retail workers know their rights under the ordinances. At the time of writing, only 10 investigation requests have been received by Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE), despite the widespread nature of FRERO non-compliance. City contracted outreach workers report that outreach to retail workers is extraordinarily difficult due to employer policies regarding employees' interaction with people providing outreach and education services on municipal labor laws. At the time of writing, OLSE has one compliance officer assigned to FRERO enforcement, who also maintains a minimum wage and paid sick leave caseload.

Few managers and employers are aware of their obligations under the ordinance, as decision-makers for formula retail establishments are likely to reside at regional or national offices, local managers may have limited ability to affect change to local scheduling practices, regardless of legal obligations. At this time, the City has not yet supported any specific industry-level implementation efforts. However, industry-level capacity building support is available. The Center for Popular Democracy launched a compliance support program for fair scheduling laws, which partners with scholars to evaluate fair scheduling practices, supports the creation of auditing programs for enforcement agencies, and provides employers with technical assistance to rectify compliance barriers embedded in scheduling software.

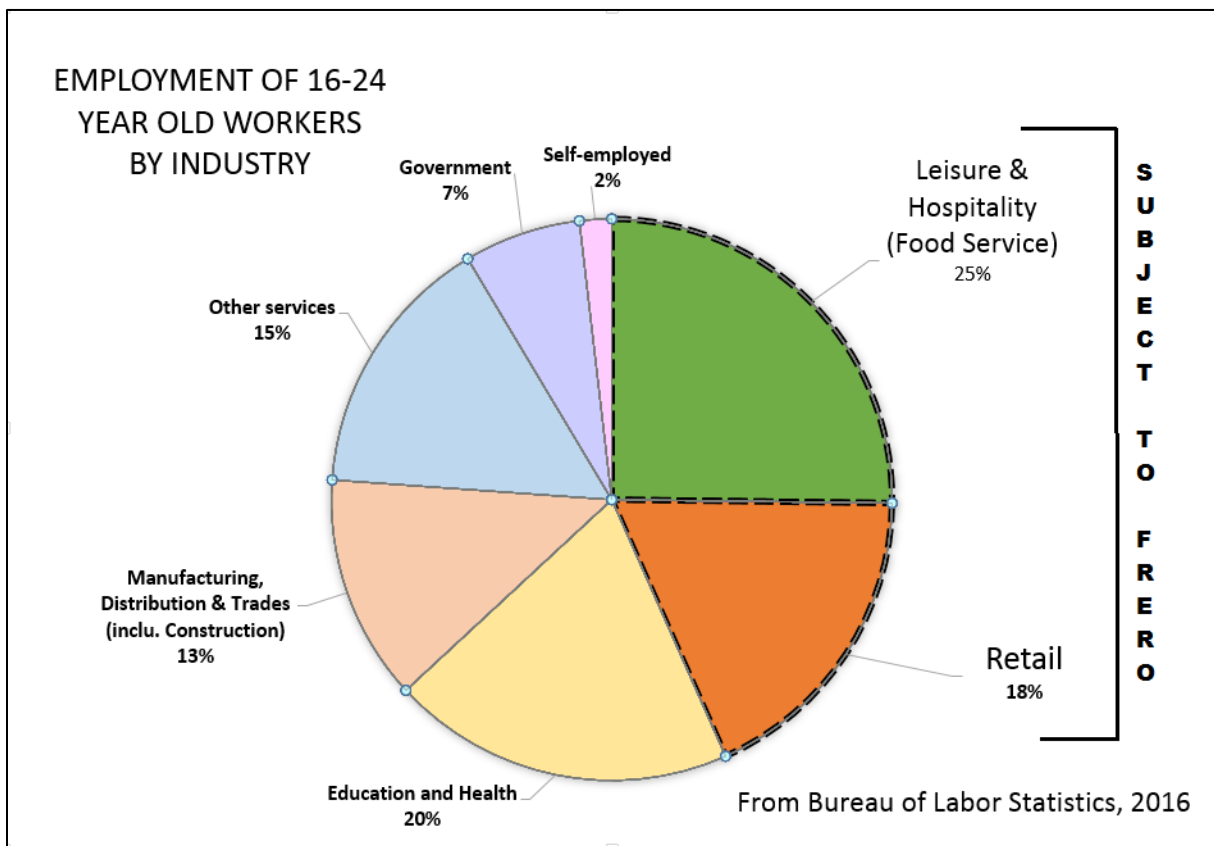


Figure E (Employment of 16-24 Year Old Workers by Industry)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission has long been invested in the welfare of young workers and sees FRERO as a next step in bettering the status quo and outcomes for young workers. FRERO has been hailed as one of the most holistic, comprehensive, worker-first labor legislative packages passed in the United States. By ensuring the success of FRERO, San Francisco would lead the way and set a national example for worker rights benefiting vulnerable, low-wage workers. Therefore, Youth Commissioners urge that:

- 1) **The Board of Supervisors hold a hearing on progress towards the implementation and enforcement of FRERO.**
- 2) **The Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families require its 2018-2023 youth workforce development grantees to educate their participants on municipal labor laws, including the Retail Workers' Bill of Rights.** We would like to thank Dr. Maria Su for meeting with youth commissioners in February 2016 and committing to engaging the Department's workforce grantees in municipal labor law education efforts.
- 3) **Mayor Lee and the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement continue to fund community-driven outreach and education efforts focused on FRERO.**
- 4) **Mayor Lee and the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement dedicate staff solely for the enforcement and investigation of FRERO.**

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## **PRIORITY 5: EXPAND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR 18-25 YEAR OLDS**

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*Invest in promising alternatives like the Young Adult Court and explore other means for reducing reliance on incarceration for Transitional Age Youth 18-25 years old*

### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered, and ultimately rejected, amendments to the 10-year capital plan, authorization of certificates of participation, and acceptance of state monies that would have authorized the construction of a new rehabilitation detention facility to replace the county jails at 850 Bryant. This issue was one that many young people in San Francisco had been mobilized and vocal about for years leading up to the Board of Supervisors' consideration. Due to the high level of interest from young San Franciscans on this issue, the Youth Commission held its own after school hearing, at which dozens of young people who were directly affected by the criminal justice system testified, and Youth Commissioners ultimately voted to oppose the construction of a new jail.

The Youth Commission's position was based, in part, on a commitment to family unity, and findings that San Francisco had an estimated 17,993 children with an incarcerated parent in 2010. A 2015 survey of parents in our county jails found that 1,200 children had a parent in a San Francisco County jail on any single given day, and that a majority of those incarcerated in our county jails are parents. Youth Commissioners also learned that 88% of people detained in our county jails have not been sentenced and have not gone to trial. However, the Youth Commission's opposition to jail construction was also based in large part on the knowledge that a sizable number of people in San Francisco's county jails are still youth themselves.

In December 2015, Supervisor President London Breed introduced a resolution creating a working group to plan for the permanent closure of county jail Nos. 3 and 4. This working group's goal was to develop a plan that will provide effective and humane investments in mental health; identify what new facility or facilities are needed; and seek to maintain San Francisco's eligibility to use State Public Works Board financing for those facilities. As part of this, the working group explored ways of reducing the overall demand for jail space.

### **UPDATES**

Among the working group's many findings was that 18-25 year olds take up the largest share of "bed days" of any age group in the county jails. Prisoners aged 18-25 occupied 28% of all bed days in our county jails while making up only 12% of San Francisco residents. The working group also found that 18-25 year olds have the longest stays in San Francisco's county jails. According to the Work Group to Re-envision the Jail Replacement Project's recent issue brief, 18-25 year olds accounted for 235,371 bed days per year, out of a total 837,890 bed days. Black youth 18-25 represented the highest number of bed days of any group in the system (135,578) overall. Youth Commissioners contend that finding



alternatives to incarceration for transitional age youth (TAY) is an integral part of reducing the overall demand for jail space.

Ethnicity	18-25	26-34	35-45	46-64	65+	Total
Black	135,578	119,193	86,678	103,220	2,195	446,862
White	28,243	50,603	49,543	45,079	5,777	179,246
Hispanic	53,009	35,548	21,182	15,514	1,411	126,665
Filipino	4,576	4,769	4,559	1,592	8	15,504
Chinese	925	2,836	1,824	6,959	314	12,859
Other	4,511	2,580	2,566	1,812	645	12,113
Less than 1%	819	5,637	2,322	912	9	9,699
Samoan	4,698	1,678	2,762	225		9,363
Other Asian	759	4,809	2,899	558	153	9,178
Vietnamese	281	2,225	1,654	1,979	4	6,142
NULL	926	1,700	2,253	883	156	5,919
American Indian	1,044	1,739	1,146	404	8	4,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,371</b>	<b>233,315</b>	<b>179,388</b>	<b>179,136</b>	<b>10,680</b>	<b>837,890</b>

Figure F (Jail Bed Days by Age and Ethnicity; Source: Work Group to Re-envision the Jail Replacement Project Issue Brief: Data Review)

In contrast to our City’s high rate of incarcerating its own young adults ages 18-25, the Juvenile Probation Department has met success in its efforts to find alternatives to incarceration for youth under age 18. Over the last several years, the Juvenile Probation Department has overseen a dramatic reduction in the number of juveniles held in out-of-home detention. The population at Juvenile Hall in January 2017 was 36 youth, compared to over 80 youth in 2013.<sup>1</sup> The Juvenile Probation Department has employed many innovative means to reach these goals, including stream-lining risk assessment procedures, using a community assessment and referral center, and working with a collaborative re-entry team to reduce recidivism.

San Francisco’s Young Adult Court was established in summer 2015 as a partnership between the Superior Court, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Department of Public Health, Adult Probation, the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Police Department, and Family Service Agency. The court serves 18-25 year olds facing felony charges and engages them in a high-touch intensive case-planning approach as an alternative to jail time. The court is now successfully graduating its second cohort of 60-80 young people. However, the court has had to twice shut its doors to new referrals due to reaching its capacity. The San Francisco Veterans Justice Court represents another example of a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of particular populations in the adult criminal justice system and reducing reliance on incarceration.

<sup>1</sup> San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges that:

- 1) **A Board of Supervisors' hearing be held to discuss alternatives to incarceration for 18- 25 years olds in San Francisco's county jail.** This hearing can explore promising approaches currently in use in the Young Adult Court; existing barriers to young adults' successful enrollment in or graduation from the Young Adult Court; insights learned from the Juvenile Probation Departments' successful efforts to develop alternatives to out-of-home detention for youth; and approaches being used by other states and counties to better address the needs of 18-25 year olds involved in the criminal justice system.
- 2) **The Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and criminal justice partners explore opportunities to expand the capacity of the Young Adult Court.** We ask that all eligible and willing justice-system involved young people in San Francisco be given the opportunity to have access to the Young Adults Court. We believe this can help to reduce recidivism, as well as the population of transitional age youth in San Francisco's county jails.
- 3) **The Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and Department of Public Health address the lack of developmentally appropriate, TAY-specific inpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment options.** This will ensure that TAY affected by addiction and/or mental illness have necessary exits from the criminal justice system. This recommendation builds on similar recommendations made by Youth Commissioners since 2014-15.

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## **PRIORITY 6: PROTECT COMMUNITIES' ACCESS TO SUNLIGHT AND OPEN SPACE**

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*Urging the protection of San Francisco's parks against shadowing, and the expansion of open space access in neighborhoods impacted by high-rise development*

### **BACKGROUND**

Proposition K (1984) or also known as the Sunlight Ordinance, established Section 295 of the Planning Code, mandating that new structures above 40 feet in height that would cast additional shadows on properties under the jurisdiction of, or designated to be acquired by the Recreation and Parks Department, can only be approved by the Planning Commission if the shadow is determined to be insignificant.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Mission is to "provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of our diverse community."<sup>1</sup> In recent years, the Youth Commission has worked on ensuring equitable access to neighborhood parks by recommending the creation of a recreation and open space equity analysis. Ensuring our young people are receiving the full benefits of our public parks and open spaces, including adequate sunlight in all parks, is of paramount importance to the Youth Commission, and its chartered duties.

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, adopted by the Board of Supervisors and the Recreation and Parks Commission and supported by the Youth Commission, states that all children should "explore the wild places of the city", and "visit and care for a local park"<sup>2</sup>. Youth Commissioners support these goals and believe that in order for our young people to receive the full benefits of our parks, we must ensure that we are protecting park-goers access to sunlight and mitigating the shadowing impacts of large buildings which could block direct access to sunlight.

Although the sunlight ordinance was passed in 1984, the Recreation and Park Commission did not vote down a proposal for a construction that would cause park shadowing until 2015, when a development that would have cast a shadow on Victoria Manalo Draves Park, the only multipurpose public park in SOMA, was voted down by the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

Concerns regarding sunlight access are especially acute for the Chinatown community, where many families live in crowded conditions and lack indoor space. Community action to introduce and pass the

<sup>1</sup> SF Recreation and Parks: <http://sfrecpark.org/about/>

<sup>2</sup> SF Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights: <http://www.sfusdscience.org/sfcobr.html>

<sup>3</sup> J.K. Dineen, *SF Gate*, "SF Parks Commission Squashes Condos that Would Shadow SOMA Park," January 17, 2015; Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-parks-commission-squashes-building-that-would-6021079.php>

Sunlight Ordinance was ignited in large part by proposals that would have cast shadows on Chinatown’s Portsmouth square. Despite this, the Planning Commission and Recreation and Park Commission both approved construction of the Oceanwide Center in 2016, a development which will cast new shadows on four downtown parks: Union Square, Portsmouth Square, St. Mary’s Square in Chinatown, and Justin Herman Plaza.<sup>4</sup> The developer agreed to pay a \$12 million dollar endowment for programming in Chinatown parks. Bill Maher, a former supervisor, former director of the Department of Parking and Traffic, and author of Prop. K, said “trading shadows for dollars is ‘flatly illegal.’ Prop. K’s shadow-limiting powers are clear.”<sup>5</sup>

*“Neighborhoods that are home to proposed future developments are also home to some of San Francisco’s lowest income families, who experience particularly limited access to outdoor recreation and open space.”*

As a number of neighborhoods that are home to proposed future developments are also home to some of San Francisco’s lowest income families, who experience particularly limited access to outdoor recreation and open space, Youth Commissioners urge further investigation into the implementation of the Sunlight Ordinance, as well as opportunities to mitigate shadowing impacts and expand sunlight and open space access for communities impacted by shadowing from new developments.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Hold a Board of Supervisors hearing on the implementation of Proposition K and the Sunlight Ordinance and explore opportunities for expanding outdoor recreation access to families living in areas zoned for high rise development**

The Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to call a hearing looking into the Planning Department’s implementation of the Sunlight Ordinance, Section 295 of the Planning Code. This hearing can also explore opportunities to expand sunlight and open space access for communities potentially impacted by shadowing from proposed and future developments.

<sup>4</sup> Brittany Hopkins, May 6, 2016, *Hoodline*, “Planning Commission Approves Oceanwide Center For First & Mission,” Available at:

<http://hoodline.com/2016/05/planning-commission-approves-oceanwide-center-for-first-mission>

<sup>5</sup> J.K. Dineen, *SF Gate*, “SF Parks Commission Squashes Condos that Would Shadow SOMA Park,” January 17, 2015;

Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-parks-commission-squashes-building-that-would-6021079.php>

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# **PRIORITY 7: PRIORITIZE YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN MID-MARKET COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS**

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*Urging for inclusion of youth in community benefit agreement negotiations, the prioritization of youth workforce opportunities in the 2018 Mid-Market Community Benefit District negotiations, and investment in expanding opportunities for youth in the broader tech sector*

## **BACKGROUND**

The Youth Commission has always championed youth voices. The creation of the body itself was an act in favor of youth involvement in politics, and its continued existence — and success — is testament to the power of youth to spearhead change. SEC 4.124.c of the San Francisco Charter calls on the Youth Commission to “elicit mutual cooperation of private groups (such as fraternal orders, service clubs, associations, churches, businesses, and youth organizations) and city-wide neighborhood planning collaborative efforts for children, youth and families.” In accordance with this duty, the Youth Commission is represented on the Our Children, Our Families Council and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and has consistently—and successfully--recommended youth seats on relevant councils and oversight bodies.

Last year, our predecessors researched Community Benefit Agreements, a binding contract any company residing in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area whose annual payroll expense exceeds one million dollars can enter into with the City Administrator, in order to receive an exclusion from the 1.5% payroll tax. Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) may include commitments to engage in community activities and participate in workforce development opportunities in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area. They are drawn up by the companies, in conjunction with the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the Central Market & Tenderloin Area. Currently, there are six companies engaged in CBAs: Twitter, Zendesk, Spotify, Zoosk, Yammer, and One Kings Lane. Last year’s Economic, Justice, and Immigration Committee of 2015-2016 recommended that one youth seat be added to the Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

In order to determine how the Mid-Market companies could further benefit their community, and especially youth, youth commissioners co-hosted a 2015 town hall with District 6 youth alongside the Mid-Market companies. Multiple needs and asks were brought up by the youth, such as affordable housing for transitional aged youth, but none were expressed as passionately as the young people’s desire for paid internships and entry level job opportunities at tech companies.

This year, youth commissioners met with youth workforce development agencies, the Mayor’s office, and city departments to discuss this priority. We believe that young people deserve to take part in the economic benefits of the tech boom. We also believe that young San Franciscans have a great deal to bring to this sector and that companies have a great deal to gain by making concerted efforts to develop pathways for hiring young local residents. We were inspired by the contributions of Salesforce

and LinkedIn to create youth internships and participate in Mayor Lee's Youth Jobs+ initiative. We believe that these demonstrations of forward-thinking approaches in this area provide a compelling example that it is possible to support young San Franciscans' entry into the tech sector. Furthermore, we believe this should be a priority for the City and companies alike in the 2018 Community Benefit Agreements.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In light of the Youth Commission's consistent dedication to this issue and the increasing pace of gentrification in our city, the Youth Commission urges:

- 1) The inclusion of at least one youth seat on the Citizen's Advisory Committees approving Community Benefit Districts and Community Benefit Agreements, in general, and the Mid-Market CAC in particular.**
- 2) Prioritization of provisions for local, entry-level hiring of youth and skilled internship slots for high school students and disconnected transitional age youth in the 2018 Community Benefit Agreements with mid-market companies.**

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## **PRIORITY 8: IMPROVE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO VISIT AN INCARCERATED PARENT**

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*Urging support of families with incarcerated parents by supporting implementation of time-of-arrest protocols, supporting family-friendly jail-visiting policies, and assisting the school district's commitment to supporting students with incarcerated parents*

### **BACKGROUND**

Over half of all U.S. prisoners in 2007 were parents of one or more children under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> According to the Center for Youth Wellness, incarceration is one of the most adverse of childhood experiences and a DCYF Community Needs Assessment found that 17,993 children and youth were estimated to have had a parent who spent time in either county jail or state prison in 2010.<sup>2</sup> As this number does not include youth and children who had a parent that was incarcerated at any time during their childhood, and does not include transitional age youth (TAY), parental incarceration may affect an even greater number of San Francisco's young people.

Although there is no city or state department responsible for collecting data on youth and children with incarcerated parents (CIP), a recent survey of people in San Francisco county jails found that 536 (59%) reported being a parent or primary caregiver to a total of 1,110 children aged 25 years or younger. This report also states "...it can be conservatively estimated that, on any given day, there are more than 3,000 children aged 25 years or younger with parents in Alameda or San Francisco County jails,"<sup>3</sup> because there were a fair number of individuals not surveyed due to not being present in the housing units at time of the survey due to court appearances, medical appointments, and lawyer visits.

<sup>1</sup> Justice Strategies; "Children on the Outside: Voicing the Pain and Human Costs of Parental Incarceration," January 2011

<sup>2</sup> San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF). "Community Needs Assessment," published May 2011, Page 101.

<sup>3</sup> Kramer, K. and the Children of Incarcerated Parents Jail Survey Teams. *Descriptive Overview of Parents, Children and Incarceration in Alameda and San Francisco County Jails*. Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership & San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership. Zellerbach Family Foundation, (March 2016).

# UPDATES

## Time of Arrest Protocols

In May 2014, the Police Commission passed new protocols<sup>4</sup> for supporting children at the time of their parents' arrest. The Police Department committed to establishing a roll call training on the new protocols for its officers. The video training includes real-life arrest scenarios involving parents and children and includes the voices of youth who were present at the time of their parent's arrest.

In 2016, the police department began including a new question in its incident reports, wherein officers ask people being arrested if they are responsible for a child under the age of 18. 'Yes' answers prompt the officer to confirm they complied with the provisions of the general order which require cuffing parents outside the presence of children when possible; reassuring the child they will be cared for; arranging for the child to be picked up by another adult whose background is verified with Family and Children's Services; and arranging with school resource officers or school sites for children to be picked up from and cared for after school. In 2017, Youth Commissioners attended the Police Academy to view new recruit's training in DGO 7.04.

**43% of youth witnessed their parent's arrest**

**HALF of those youth (51%) reported witnessing violence or abuse by a police officer against their parent when they were arrested**

Courtesy of Project WHAT "We're Here and Talking," January 2016

In 2016, two other arresting agencies are in the process of adopting or implementing similar protocols. The District Attorney's office has provided in-person training to DA Investigators on supporting children during a parent's arrest. The Sheriff's department is implementing protocols for deputies with arresting duties.

## Visitation Policies

The transfer of incarcerated people from state to county supervision due to realignment means we now have the opportunity to improve visiting policies that help children to maintain strong bonds with their parents during incarceration, and to set an example for the rest of the state.

Visitation and contact are major mediating factors in the adverse effect of parental incarceration.<sup>5</sup> Strict administrative and steep financial barriers to parental visitation, as well as the cost of phone calls, were among the top issues and concerns voiced by youth with incarcerated parents, formerly incarcerated

<sup>4</sup> SFPD Department General Order 7.04 "Children of Arrested Parents," Available at: <http://sf-police.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=27381>

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Murray, David P. Farrington; "Effects of Parental Imprisonment on Child Antisocial Behavior and Mental Health: A Systemic Review"; September 2009



Figure G: Effects of Parental Incarceration on Youth

## As a result of a parent's incarceration...



Courtesy of Project WHAT "We're Here and Talking," January 2016

people, and service providers during a youth participatory action research effort undertaken by San Francisco Project WHAT, a leadership program for CIP, in 2013-2015.<sup>6</sup>

In March 2015, Youth Commissioners, working in partnership with Project WHAT, passed a resolution ([1415-AL-08](#) [Lowering the jail visiting age to 16 and establishing an online inmate locator]) urging for the promotion of family unity for youth with incarcerated parents by lowering the visiting age in county jails to age 16 and urging the establishment of an online inmate locator tool.<sup>7</sup> In March 2015, the visiting policy was amended by then-Sheriff Mirkarimi and a Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued for the creation of an online inmate locator.

Youth Commissioners met with Sheriff Vicki Hennessy in April 2016, and were pleased that Sheriff Hennessy expressed commitment to implementing the 16 and 17 year old visiting policy; working with the Youth Commission to outreach for the new policy; and evaluating whether the current application process for the visiting program presents any barriers for young people wishing to visit their parents and guardians.

In 2017, only one young person has officially enrolled in the 16-17 year old minor visitation program. Youth commissioners met with both school board member, Matt Haney, and Sheriff Hennessy and confirmed their willingness to participate in a working group aiming to coordinate efforts to support interested and qualified young people's enrollment in the Minor Visitation Program. The working group will coordinate young people's access to the identification and/or verification needed to substantiate their relationship to their incarcerated loved one; align efforts to inform both young people and incarcerated parents about the minor visitation program as well as to assist them in their successful enrollment; explore other opportunities for supporting youth maintaining contact with their incarcerated

<sup>6</sup> Project What 2016. *We're Here and Talking: Project What's Research Findings and Policy Recommendations Concerning Children of Incarcerated Parents in San Francisco*. San Francisco, CA

<sup>7</sup> Youth Commission resolution 1415-AL-08:  
<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=51714>

parents through in-person visitation; and make recommendations that would streamline young people's access to the Minor Visitation Program.

## **School District Support**

In March 2016, the SFUSD Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution "In Support of Staff Training, Curriculum and Services to Meet the Needs of SFUSD Students with Incarcerated Parents" introduced by Commissioners Matt Haney and Shamann Walton. The resolution commits to continued training for school counselors, social workers, nurses, wellness center staff, and school resource officers on an annual basis. It also commits the district to integrating awareness of the impacts of incarceration into curricula and school libraries; pursuing specific programming and services for students with incarcerated parents; assigning a district staff liaison to work with One Family, the organization providing parenting education and child visitation in San Francisco county jails, to allow for parent-teacher conferences in the jails and to support students in establishing visitation; and adding information about parental incarceration to student surveys.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Assist the school district's efforts to support students with incarcerated parents by establishing a family-focused school-district liaison role inside the jails.**

Finally, Youth Commissioners commend the San Francisco Unified School District for undertaking a comprehensive approach to supporting students with incarcerated parents. The Youth Commission urges Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors to commit resources to establishing a staff role inside the county jails to provide family-focused support, liaison with school districts, and coordinate services with the Sheriff and parents inside.

- 2. Ensure regular evaluations of the Police Department's use of time-of-arrest protocols set forth in DGO 7.04.**

The Youth Commission commends the police department for developing a model policy for supporting children at the time of a parent's arrest. The Youth Commission also commends the Police department for developing a model training video that highlights the voices of impacted young people. The Youth Commission also urges the Mayor and Board to urge the Police Commission to commit to regular reviews of the time-of-arrest protocols, including reviewing the use of the new incident report question and compliance with the protocols.

- 3. Continue, advertise, and evaluate family-positive visiting policies.**

The Youth Commission commends Sheriff Hennessy's commitment to ensuring youth with parents incarcerated in San Francisco county jails have the right to in-person visits with their parents and guardians. We look forward to working with the Sheriff and the school district to ensure that both parents and teenagers are aware of the new 16- and 17-year-old visiting policy, and toward an application and enrollment process that is accessible and youth-friendly.

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## **PRIORITY 9: ENSURE POSITIVE YOUTH-POLICE RELATIONS THROUGH ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND A CHIEF’S YOUTH ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE**

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*Supporting the Police Department in its commitment to provide its officers comprehensive training on interacting with youth that is skill-based, scenario-based, and focused on de-escalation; and regularly review issues impacting youth-police relations through a new quarterly roundtable*

### **BACKGROUND**



*Commissioner Galeano speaking at the Police Commission, October 2016*

Since 2014, we have seen increased national attention on the issues of racial profiling, police-community relations, and youth-police relations with the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, and other officer-involved shootings in San Francisco and throughout the country. More than once, SFUSD students from multiple high school campuses have walked out to protest the death of Mario Woods, Alex Nieto, and others. What was made clear through these discussions in San Francisco and beyond is that tensions between community members and police departments across the country are strained to the breaking point and are in dire need of dedicated efforts to enhance mutual understanding, trust, transparency, and accountability. When we talk about trust between police and members of the community, it is our contention that young people should be at the center of the discussion.

For much of its 20 year history, the Youth Commission has focused its attention on the arena of youth-police interactions--from sponsoring two city-wide hearings in June of 2000 regarding the later-adopted state Constitutional Amendment and statute on Juvenile Crime known as Proposition 21; to putting on a town hall in December 2002 that drew over 200 youth, many of whom spoke about their experiences with police in schools; to working with the Police Department (SFPD) and the Department of Police Accountability staff to develop revisions adopted by the Police Commission in September 2008 to the SFPD’s protocol on youth detention, arrest, and interrogation codified in Department General Order (DGO) 7.01; to holding the first ever joint Youth and Police Commission meeting on March 7, 2012 where over 70 young speakers shared their testimony.

Gathering all of the input and research provided, Youth Commissioners released a set of recommendations on improving youth-police relations in 2012. These recommendations included: 1) providing new targeted training for all police officers that addresses topics and policing tactics unique to juveniles; 2) ensuring widespread and regular distribution of SFPD “Juvenile Know Your Rights” pamphlets through all City agencies, the school district, and social media; and 3) establishing an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SFPD and SFUSD.

There have been a number of strides towards the ends of improving youth-police relations in San Francisco. The Police Commission and SFUSD Board of Education mutually passed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2014 outlining the role of police on school campuses. The MOU is one of the strongest of its type in the nation, and provides clear guidelines to assist SFUSD administrators in distinguishing between school discipline and criminal issues that may warrant a call to the police. The MOU also clearly defines when and how arrests should be made on school campuses and outlines several of the key provisions of DGO 7.01, the juvenile policing code, in the context of school campuses. The passage in the MOU has resulted in a dramatic decline in the number of on-campus arrests.

Alongside these gains, youth commissioners continued to advocate for comprehensive police training on youth-police interactions that focuses on adolescent development and de-escalation, and is consistent with how police officers are trained (i.e. is skill-based and scenario-based), which remains an important outstanding need in avoiding unnecessary escalations between police and youth, and is a strong priority for the San Francisco Youth Commission. Such training has already been implemented successfully in other police departments, including Sacramento, Portland, Oregon and with school resource officers in San Diego.

## RECENT UPDATES

In 2016-17, there were several changes impacting the San Francisco Police Department. First, both the Department of Justice and Blue Ribbon Panel released series of recommendations for improving community and police relations. The Task Force for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing also released a landmark report, focusing several of its recommendations on juvenile policing.

The Police Department revised its Use of Force policy in December 2016. Youth Commissioners visited several Police Commission meetings to encourage the development of systems and processes to ensure transparency and a clear timeline for implementing the new use of force policy, and for auditing adherence. The new Use of Force policy prioritizes, among other things, rapport-building,



*Commissioners Blacksher, Mesler, and Juarez speaking at Police Commission and BOS hearings, 2017*

communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics. Importantly, the new policy also prohibits officers from firing at moving vehicles, a change which is especially important to San Francisco youth, following the death of 17 year old San Franciscan, Sheila Deto, in 1998. In addition to these changes, we are looking forward to continuing to work with the police department to increase awareness and training on youth issues.

As Police Commissioners and Mayor Lee undertook the grueling task of selecting a new Chief of Police, Youth Commissioners shared recommendations that the incoming Chief commit to working closely on youth issues (Motion [1617-AL-01](#) [Youth Commission Priorities for Improving Youth-Police Relations Under a New Police Chief], passed November 7, 2016). We were truly pleased with the appointment of Chief William Scott, as we were to have had the opportunity to meet with Chief Scott in person in April 2017. During our meeting, Chief Scott committed to following through on our recommendation to establish a Chief’s Youth Advisory Roundtable. He subsequently assigned a Deputy Chief and other senior staff to work with us on the initiative. Chief Scott also indicated his interest in implementing a training on youth issues in accordance with the Youth Commission’s long-standing recommendations. Commander of Youth and Community Engagement, Commander Lazar, confirmed that a number of SFPD School Resource Officers sat in on Strategies for Youth’s “Policing the Teen Brain” training with a neighboring police department this Spring. In May 2017, he also confirmed that the department was exploring a way forward for a wider implementation of the Policing the Teen Brain training.

*“Youth commissioners continued to advocate for comprehensive police training on youth-police interactions that focuses on adolescent development and de-escalation, and is consistent with how police officers are trained...Such training has already been implemented successfully in other police departments, including Sacramento, Portland, Oregon and with school resource officers in San Diego.”*

Youth Commissioners attended the Police Academy training session on the juvenile policing code in early 2017, and are looking forward to working with the department to establish a training for new recruits, sergeants, and patrol officers that includes:

1. De-escalation skills and strategies for asserting authority effectively with youth.
2. Scenarios of real life police-youth interactions and include youth in training components.
3. Opportunities for officers to practice and apply their skills.
4. Address the issue of racial profiling and disproportionate police contact with youth of color.
5. Offer practical communication skills and best practices for working with youth that are grounded in developmental psychology. Topics that should be included are: adolescent cognitive development, mental health issues among youth, and recognizing and interacting with traumatized youth.
6. Focus on policing tactics unique to juveniles, and offer a comprehensive overview of the department’s policies surrounding juvenile policing outlined in the Department General Order 7.01.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Train both new and advanced officers on effectively interacting with youth.**

The Youth Commission is looking forward to working with Chief Scott on the implementation of the seven youth-focused police training recommendations as outlined above. This effort has been a long time in the making and we believe now is a critical time to make this change. We thank Chief Scott and his team for their proactive and swift approach to addressing this need.

### **2. Establish a quarterly Chief's Youth Advisory Roundtable to discuss youth-relations.**

Youth Commissioners would like to thank Chief Scott, Deputy Chief Redmond, and Commander Lazar for their swift follow through on this recommendation. We look forward to working with them to begin roundtable meetings early in the 2017-18 school year.

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# **PRIORITY 10: REDUCE THE NEGATIVE SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL DENSITY ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES BY STRENGTHENING CURRENT REGULATIONS**

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*Urging mitigation of the impacts of alcohol on the youth and families of San Francisco by requiring an equity analysis on all alcohol policies developed; supporting the Budget Legislative Analyst Report on the Economic and Administrative Costs Related to Alcohol Abuse in the City and County of San Francisco by moving it to a public hearing; and by partnering with the San Francisco Prevention Coalition to develop an alcohol regulatory framework for the City and County of San Francisco*

## **BACKGROUND**

According to the 2006 to 2010 averages by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 503 underage youth die annually from alcohol related causes and excessive alcohol consumption in California.<sup>1</sup> Excessive alcohol consumption by California youth leads to 30,236 years of potential life lost each year.<sup>2</sup> Youth violence related to drinking costs California \$3.5 billion and results in 216 deaths annually and youth traffic crashes related to drinking costs \$1.2 billion and results in 148 deaths annually.<sup>3</sup> The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over \$6.7 billion annually.<sup>4</sup> In 2012, 5,192 youth aged 12 to 20 years were admitted for alcohol treatment in California. Estimates conclude that the City and County of San Francisco bears the cost of \$17.1 million annually for alcohol-related emergency medical transport, medical care of people with alcohol-related illnesses, alcohol abuse treatment and prevention, and disability and death due to alcohol use.<sup>5</sup>

In San Francisco, alcohol use ranks among the leading causes of premature mortality. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) considers alcohol a major public health problem. Census tracts show that neighborhoods such as Bernal Heights, Chinatown, Hayes Valley, Japantown, Nob Hill, North Beach, Potrero Hill, South of Market, the Tenderloin, and the Western Addition have a disproportionate share of alcohol sales outlets relative to their population size. These areas tend to have a higher density of violent crime as well as a higher proportion of residents with incomes below the poverty threshold. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI). Atlanta, GA. [http://nccd.cdc.gov/DPH\\_ARDI/default/default.aspx](http://nccd.cdc.gov/DPH_ARDI/default/default.aspx). Accessed May 12, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Tso, S. M. (2016). Report of the Chief Legislative Analyst Report on Resolution to Support and/or Sponsor Legislation to Prohibit Powdered Alcohol (Vol. 15-0002-S123, pp. 1-7, Rep.). Los Angeles, CA.

<sup>3</sup> Tso, S. M. (2016). Report of the Chief Legislative Analyst Report on Resolution to Support and/or Sponsor Legislation to Prohibit Powdered Alcohol (Vol. 15-0002-S123, pp. 1-7, Rep.). Los Angeles, CA.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.pire.org/documents/UDETTC/cost-sheets/CA.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Treatment Episode Data Set. (2013). Substance Abuse Treatment by Primary Substance of Abuse, According to Sex, Age, Race, and Ethnicity, 2011. Available [Online]:

are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.<sup>6</sup> According to the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control as of January 8, 2016, there are 3,809 retail businesses selling alcohol in San Francisco's 46.9 square miles, making San Francisco the most alcohol retail-dense county in California.<sup>7</sup> Recent studies using advanced analytical methods by Toomey and colleagues (2007) show that a higher density of alcohol outlets is related to increased rates of crime, particularly homicides and assaults.<sup>8</sup> Treno and colleagues (2003) evaluated the effect of alcohol outlet density on driving after drinking among 15 to 20-year-olds, finding that higher alcohol outlet density is associated with greater prevalence of drunk driving.<sup>9</sup>

*“Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21.”*

Preliminary findings from recent studies conducted by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Trauma Center demonstrate that approximately 8% percent of alcohol-related trauma cases die from their injuries. Of a sample of 300 moderate-to-severe traumas, 59% occurred in patients with blood alcohol levels of .08 and above. The study found that patients with a positive blood alcohol level experienced more severe traumas, and therefore faced a greater risk of death. Analysis revealed that the highest rates of alcohol-related injuries treated at the Trauma Center occurred in San Francisco census tracts with a high density of alcohol outlets.

States, cities, and counties have the power to place a legal limit on the number of alcohol establishments in a neighborhood, city, or county as a strategy to reduce alcohol consumption, alcohol-related health issues, and safety problems among the general population. The San Francisco Prevention Coalition (SFPC) began in the fall of 2010 with support from the SF DPH/Behavioral Health Services to organize prevention providers, and the youth they work with, to address citywide youth alcohol and substance use issues with a focus on changing community conditions and norms that impact use. Since this coalition began, youth leaders and adults have been at the table together, learning about the issues, setting priorities, and doing the work. In their first year, they have looked closely at storefront alcohol advertising and promotion, gathering data to determine that many corner stores and liquor stores were violating state law around alcohol ads. Their vision is a city where SF's neighborhoods, communities and families foster healthy lifestyles and promote healthy choices through strong policies and norms that limit access and exposure to alcohol and other drugs.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.pire.org/documents/UDETC/cost-sheets/CA.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs: Community Indicators of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Risk: San Francisco County 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Toomey, T. L., Erickson, D. J., Carlin, B. P., Lenk, K. M., Quick, H. S., Jones, A. M., & Harwood, E. M. (2012). The Association between Density of Alcohol Establishments and Violent Crime within Urban Neighborhoods. *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 36(8), 1468–1473.

<sup>9</sup> Treno, A.J.; Grube, J.W.; and Martin, S.E. Alcohol availability as a predictor of youth drinking and driving: A hierarchical analysis of survey and archival data. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 27:835–840, 2003.





*SF Prevention Coalition Meeting*

SFPC, which is made of several youth serving agencies including Asian American Recovery Services, Center for Open Recovery Community Youth Center, Horizons Unlimited, Japanese Community Youth Council, South of Market Community Action Network, Vietnamese Youth Development Center, OMIE Beacon, and the Youth Leadership Institute, identify alcohol density as a critical health equity issue impacting youth and communities of color across San Francisco. The SF Prevention Coalition and a broad range of partners including the San Francisco Alcohol Policy Partnership Working Group and San Francisco Friday Night Live are working to ensure data and evidence analysis of alcohol density impacts in San Francisco are led by experts in alcohol prevention from SFPD, UCSF, and SFDPH. The SFPC has roughly 30 active youth in the Coalition, 150-200 youth involved in neighborhood campaigns via community organizations and, since its inception in 2010, has impacted over 1200 youth in SF.

## RECENT UPDATES

Over the course of the last five years, multiple stakeholders have come together to ensure the impacts of alcohol density are addressed through multiple policy advocacy efforts. In 2015, the SF Prevention Coalition and partners led efforts on [Resolution 160064](#) [Supporting California State Assembly Bill 1554 and Senate Bill 919 - Banning the Sale and Distribution of Powdered Alcohol in California] and was adopted by the Board of Supervisors which urged the California State Legislature and Governor to pass Assembly Bill 1554 and Senate Bill 819 that will ban the sale and distribution of powdered alcohol in California. This deadly product would have devastating impacts to an already saturated community. Youth leaders ages 12 - 24 provided powerful testimony at the Board of Supervisors meeting where this resolution was voted on regarding the potential impacts of substances like powdered alcohol.

Additionally, the SF Prevention Coalition led efforts on [Resolution 160229](#) [Urging the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to Deny Formula Retail Food and Drink Establishments That Do Not Traditionally Sell Alcohol] focused on Non Traditional Alcohol Retail License applications from Starbucks and Taco Bell Cantina. This resolution was introduced on January 26, 2016, and it urged the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to deny alcohol license applications of Formula Retail food and drink establishments who do not traditionally sell alcohol in San Francisco. This resolution was also adopted by the Board of Supervisors. In a city that has over 5000 places to access alcohol, the Prevention Coalition knew that fast food establishments applying for alcohol licenses could have a domino effect across San Francisco. Key stakeholders engaged in partnership with the Prevention Coalition include the San Francisco Health Improvement Partnerships Alcohol Policy Working Group's Steering Committee, San Francisco Police Department's Alcohol Liaison Unit, UCSF, and DPH's

Population Health Division, which has impacted their work positively.

Most recently, the Prevention Coalition and stakeholders worked with Supervisor Mar to request a Budget Legislative Analyst Report that would focus on the City and County of San Francisco, informed by state and national community-focused approaches to calculating alcohol-related harm costs and applying regulatory solutions to address those costs. The report highlights the costs are broadly construed, including not only the cost to individuals or aggregated individuals, but costs to society and city services. There are both a direct and indirect costs associated with alcohol, all which should be considered. The Prevention Coalition requested that harms associated with the health and safety of children and families in SF be included in the overall framework and emphasize that alcohol-related harms to children and young people are especially costly.



*Youth Speakers from the Prevention Coalition at a BOS Meeting*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We would like to thank the Youth Leadership Institute for bringing this issue and research to Youth Commissioners' attention. The Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the negative societal and economic impacts of alcohol density on youth and families in San Francisco. Therefore, Youth Commissioners urge that:

- 1) **The Board of Supervisors require an equity analysis of alcohol-related impacts to be conducted as a part of any new alcohol policies developed and consider the impacts of alcohol density on Transitional Age Youth ages 18-24, communities of color, and low income communities.**
- 2) **The Board of Supervisors move the Budget Legislative Analyst Report on the Economic and Administrative Costs Related to Alcohol Abuse in the City and County of San Francisco to a public hearing.**
- 3) **The Board of Supervisors partner with the San Francisco Prevention Coalition, San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership's Alcohol Policy Steering Committee, SFPD Alcohol Liaison Unit, SF Friday Night Live, and UCSF, to develop an alcohol regulatory framework to reduce the impact of alcohol density on youth and families.**

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# PRIORITY 11: IMPLEMENT EFFORTS TO TRACK LGBTQ YOUTH IN CITY SERVICES AND FUND CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING EFFORTS

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

## BACKGROUND

Adopted in June of 1999, Chapter 12N of the San Francisco Administrative Code—entitled *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth: Youth Services Sensitivity Training*—mandates training with very specific criteria regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth sensitivity of all City employees who work with youth and all City contractors who receive \$50,000 or more in City (or City-administered) funds.

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

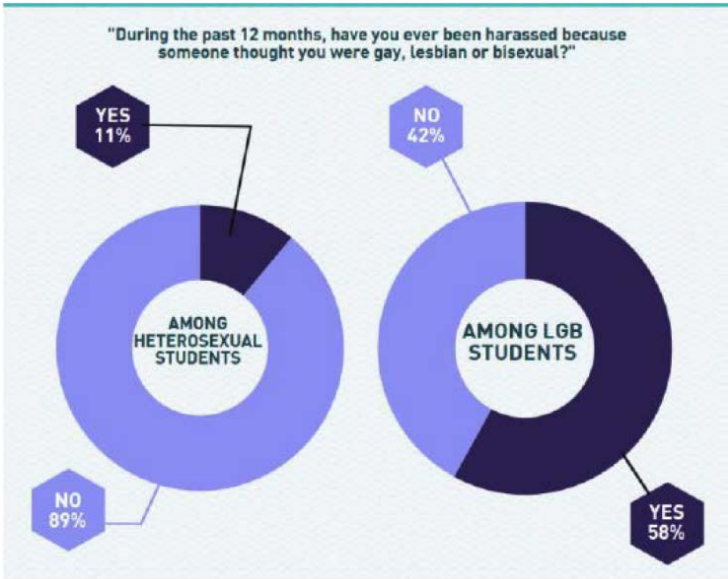


Figure H: Harassment of LGBTQ SFUSD students

Eighteen years after the passage of 12N, San Francisco's LGBTQ youth are still very in need of excellent services. Nationally, 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.<sup>1</sup> In the 2015 Point-In-Time Count Unique Youth Count of 2015, 48% of youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco identified as LGBTQ.<sup>2</sup> LGBTQ youth in San Francisco are harassed more than their heterosexual peers. SFUSD middle schoolers reported they heard more than a 10% increase in homophobic slurs between 2013 to 2015.<sup>3</sup> These youth also experience a higher risk of attempted suicide and this risk is highest in transgender students.<sup>4</sup>

In June 2013, Supervisor Avalos, along with co-sponsoring Supervisors Campos and Wiener, sponsored a hearing in Neighborhood Services and Safety regarding various city departments' efforts to implement 12N. DPH, HRC, Department of Children Youth and their Families (DCYF), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Juvenile Probation Department (JPD), and Human Services Agency (HSA) were all in attendance. Several departments had initiated notable efforts to create supportive environments for LGBTQ youth. However, no departments had means of tracking service outcomes for LGBTQ youth. Save for DPH's pilot training, none of these efforts were specifically aligned with the scope of the 12N ordinance. Since this hearing, DCYF has begun offering some LGBTQ competency workshops through the technical assistance & professional development opportunities it offers grantees.

This hearing made clear both the willingness and enthusiasm of the City family to address the needs of LGBTQ youth, as well as the need for a well-supported implementation plan for the ordinance. In January 2014, Youth Commissioners, Supervisor Avalos' office, and staff from the Human Rights Commission, DPH, and DCYF teamed up to begin hosting working group meetings with members of key youth-serving city departments. Staff from the JPD, DCYF, DPH, HSA,, Recreation and Parks Department (RPD), San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), the Human Rights Commission, TAY SF, the Youth Commission, and Supervisor Avalos' office have participated in these meetings to discuss their respective efforts to implement best practices for serving LGBTQ youth as well as to share insights about what types of competency trainings would be most supportive of staff in their departments. We commend all participating departments for their effort and look forward to the continued work.

## UPDATES

In October 2015, Assemblymember David Chiu's legislation AB 959 "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Disparities Reduction Act" was passed. The bill requires four state departments in the course of collecting demographic data, to collect voluntary self-identification information pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill pertains to the State Department of Health Care Services, the State Department of Public Health, the State Department of Social Services, and the State Department of Aging.

<sup>1</sup> Gay and Transgender Youth Homelessness by the numbers, Available at: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2010/06/21/7980/gay-and-transgender-youth-homelessness-by-the-numbers/> >

<sup>2</sup> San Francisco Homeless Unique Youth Count & Survey Comprehensive Report (2015); Available at: [https://sfgov.org/lhcb/sites/default/files/Youth\\_SanFrancisco\\_HomelessReport\\_2015\\_FINAL\\_2.pdf](https://sfgov.org/lhcb/sites/default/files/Youth_SanFrancisco_HomelessReport_2015_FINAL_2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> San Francisco Unified School District, Student Support Services for LGBTQ Youth; Available at: <http://www.healthiersf.org/LGBTQ/index>

<sup>4</sup> San Francisco Unified School District, Student Support Services for LGBTQ Youth; Available at: <http://www.healthiersf.org/resources/documents/Support%20Services%20for%20LGBTQ%20Youth%20-%20Program%20Snapshot%20as%20of%202010.13.16.pdf>

In August 2016, the Board of Supervisors passed a similar local ordinance (File No. 160362) that requires city departments and contractors that provide health care and social services to collect and analyze data concerning the sexual orientation and gender identity of the clients they serve. The legislation would pertain to DPH, Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF), and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD).

In February 2017, youth commissioners and staff met with the Director and senior management team of DCYF, Director Maria Su, Laura Moyer, and Aumijo Gomes, where commissioners shared their recommendations for the department regarding 12N implementation. The Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families indicated their commitment to bolstering the sexual orientation and gender identity data collection mandates with additional professional development training opportunities on LGBTQ competency for the department's grantees. At this time, the department has increased the number of LGBTQ competency trainings it opens to grantees from one in previous years, to three trainings this year. The trainings accommodate 30 people each. The Department will be included its TAY providers in the first phase of its SOGI implementation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Youth Commission would like to thank members of the Board of Supervisors for attention to this matter, as well as key youth-serving city departments that are undertaking efforts to comply with the sexual orientation/gender identity data collection ordinance (SOGI), as well as chapter 12N.

### **1. Dedicate funds to Chapter 12N implementation.**

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

### **2. Commit to providing the staff training needed to successfully implement the data collection efforts, and working with local experts on serving LGBTQ youth to ensure a successful approach to implementing SOGI.**

Youth Commissioners also recommend dedicating support to departments to ensure a successful and comprehensive roll out of the sexual orientation and gender identity data collection efforts, including the institution of professional development training for city staff and contractors to prepare to ask clients, especially youth, sensitive questions about their sexual orientation and gender identity, in order to ensure city staff and contractors are properly trained to address or refer out for support needs that arise through such discussions. Not all youth want to or will access specialty teen services designed for LGBTQ youth, and the city can support them by bringing up the baseline at all programs, so that staff are ready to intervene on bullying, ask and respect answers regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, and make appropriate referrals. If service providers begin asking for clients' and program participants' sexual orientation and gender identity, it is important that there is a framework for sensitivity receiving and handling that information.

**3. Ensure that the gender identity data collection compliance plan being submitted to the City Administrator in July 2017 include 12N.**

The Youth Commission recommends that the gender identity data collection compliance plan being submitted to the City Administrator by city departments—and especially DCYF and those that serve young people—include a plan to pilot and later scale up LGBTQ competency trainings for staff and grantees. The plan should align with chapter 12N, focus on building capacity to respectfully address issues and concerns that arise in the course of asking program participants about sexual orientation and identity, cover strategies for intervening on peer bullying or harassment and providing referrals, and draw on input from local experts working to improve services for LGBTQ youth.

**4. Include language about LGTBO competency training requirements in contract language for DCYF grantees funded during the 2017 Request For Proposals (RFP) process.**

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[1] Gay and Transgender Youth Homelessness by the numbers.

<<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2010/06/21/7980/gay-and-transgender-youth-homelessness-by-the-numbers/>>

[2] San Francisco Unified School District, Student Support Services for LGBTQ Youth.

<<http://www.healthiersf.org/LGBTQ/index.php>>

[3] San Francisco Unified School District, Student Support Services for LGBTQ Youth.

<http://www.healthiersf.org/resources/documents/Support%20Services%20for%20LGBTQ%20Youth%20-%20Program%20Snapshot%20as%20of%202010.13.16.pdf>

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## **PRIORITY 12: INCREASE EMERGENCY SHELTER OPTIONS AND PERMANENT EXITS FROM HOMELESSNESS FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH**

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*Fund and complete the TAY housing plan contiguous with a TAY navigation center and declare a year of recognizing youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco*

### **BACKGROUND**

In San Francisco, it is estimated that there are near 8,000 disconnected transitional-aged youth – youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who may not make a successful transition into adulthood;<sup>1</sup> 7,700 TAY lack a high school diploma, 6,000 are completely uninsured and 9,000 neither work nor go to school.<sup>2</sup> As a result, many TAY experience substantial periods of unemployment, homelessness, and a disproportionately high number of these young people have some degree of involvement with the criminal justice system.

In response to these numbers, the Youth Commission adopted a resolution in 2005 calling on then-Mayor Gavin Newsom to create a task force that would propose methods to better serve the transitional age youth population.<sup>3</sup> Mayor Newsom created a task force in 2006 and after a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-based service providers, and TAY themselves, the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force (TYTF) released a report in October 2007, “Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young Adults.” This document contained 16 comprehensive recommendations for City agencies “to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth.”<sup>4</sup> Among the report’s 16 recommendations to the City’s policy makers was “more accessible housing for disconnected TAY.”

### **2015 TAY Housing Plan**

Some City Departments responded to the TYTF report with immediacy. For example, the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH) convened a TAY Housing Work Group with a variety of stakeholders to create a plan to meet the housing goals established by the Task Force. The goal of the TAY Housing Plan was to create 400 additional units for TAY by 2015, using a variety of housing models. This priority was reaffirmed by a recommendation in the TAYSF Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth 2014-16 document, released

<sup>1</sup> Policy Priorities for Transitional Aged Youth, Vision and Goals 2014-2016

<sup>2</sup> IBID

<sup>3</sup> Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task Force. (2005).

<sup>4</sup> Disconnected Youth in San Francisco, p. 50

in Spring 2014, which called for plans to continue the pipeline of housing for TAY to meet or exceed the 400 unit goal by 2015.<sup>5</sup>

A TAY Housing Work Group concluded that there is no one "best model" of housing for youth, rather a wide range of models is needed for different populations. MOH went ahead and issued its first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) exclusively for projects serving TAY in 2009. Unfortunately, due to stigma against TAY and homeless youth, some proposed affordable TAY housing projects have faced considerable neighborhood opposition, as was the case of the Booker T. Washington project, which took years to be officially approved. The recession of 2010 also delayed the completion of many TAY housing units. Fortunately, the John Burton Foundation Housing Complex at Booker T. Washington is now underway with plans to have it completed by June 2017.

It is now 2017, two years past the year of the projected 400 unit deadline. While there has been progress, there are still 120 units that still need to be identified.<sup>6</sup> To date, 280 TAY units have been identified, and a total of 188 units have been completed. 25 units are presently under construction, while 37 units are in predevelopment, and 30 units have been land-identified.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013 and 2014, the Youth Commission recommended the development of an evaluation tool that measures the quality and effectiveness of TAY housing and its supportive services which includes direct feedback from TAY. The need for TAY housing is much bigger than what is available. Therefore, it is necessary to see that funds are invested wisely. The Mayor's Office of Housing conducted a TAY housing assessment in conjunction with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS) in 2014.

## **Establishing a TAY Navigation Center**

In June of 2016, homelessness was the number one concern of San Francisco residents.<sup>8</sup> In response to this, Supervisors Campos and Kim announced a possible declaration of a state of emergency on homelessness allowing the city to seek additional state and federal funds for homeless services. In July 2016, Supervisors passed an ordinance (File No. 160278) requiring the City to open 6 new navigation centers within 24 months—3 by July 2017 and an additional 3 more by July 2018. The ordinance includes provisions for one of the navigation centers being dedicated to meeting the needs of young people, ages 18-29 who are experiencing homelessness.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) Initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report, retrieved from <http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TAYSF-Progress-Report-2011.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Personal communication with Anne Romero, Project Manager with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, May 9, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Supportive Housing for Transition-Aged Youth, prepared by Mayor's Office of Housing, Updated May 2017.

<sup>8</sup> SF Chronicle: Homelessness Soars to No. 1 Concern in SF, New Poll Finds. 2016; Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Most-see-SF-moving-in-wrong-direction-poll-finds-6892152.php>

<sup>9</sup> Legislative Digest for BOS File No. 160278; Available at: <https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4509733&GUID=378BBDB1-D115-43E4-B7CA-41003EC3A178>



The current Navigation Center model has been successful in getting long-term, disconnected homeless adults into permanent housing.<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, the current Navigation Center does not have designated areas for TAY, a population that would greatly benefit from the innovative model. San Francisco only has one TAY-designated emergency housing facility, Lark Inn, which houses only 45 individuals.

The unemployment rate of TAY ages 20-24 is double the rate of homeless adults<sup>11</sup> and 72% of homeless youth said they wish to attend school.<sup>12</sup> According to the 2015 TAY Housing Assessment, “Without housing, young people face significant challenges in achieving their education and employment goals. For many youth, having a stable place to live is also critical to reducing their involvement and exposure to street culture, including sex work, using, or selling drugs and violence.”<sup>13</sup>

*The Navigation Center ordinance passed by supervisors in 2016 highlights the need to bolster our stock of permanently affordable TAY units in accordance with the 2015 TAY housing plan alongside the effort to open an urgently-needed TAY navigation center.*

In April of 2016, Youth Commissioners met with Navigation Center Director, Julie Leadbetter, and Emily Cohen, Deputy Director at Mayor's Office of Housing Opportunity, Partnership & Engagement, to discuss the creation of TAY-serving Navigation Centers. They suggested that navigation center models are most successful with a 2:1 ratio—meaning that for every one client in a Navigation Center, there must be at least two potential long-term housing units available. With a proposed designated TAY Navigation Center with a 75-person maximum capacity, the city still has a long way to go to satisfying both the housing and shelter needs for TAY. Again, according to the TAY housing assessment, “the supply of affordable housing options for transitional aged youth is completely insufficient”.<sup>14</sup>

The Navigation Center ordinance passed by supervisors in 2016 highlights the need to bolster our stock of permanently affordable TAY units in accordance with the 2015 TAY housing plan alongside the effort to open an urgently-needed TAY navigation center. The Youth Commission supports the effort to expedite the creation of a TAY navigation center and find strategies for intervening to serve TAY's immediate housing and shelter needs, while remaining focused on also creating permanent housing options for San Francisco's most disconnected young people.

## **Declaring a Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth**

During their 2015-2016 term Youth Commissioners collaborated with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street to bring awareness to the City of the homeless youth population in San Francisco. Together, we

<sup>10</sup> Emily Cohen and Julie Leadbetter, Presentation to the Housing Environment and City Services Committee, San Francisco Youth Commission, April 2016

<sup>11</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

<sup>12</sup> IBID

<sup>13</sup> Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS), November 2015, *Providing Stability and Support: An Assessment of San Francisco's Transitional Age Youth Housing and Services System*. Retrieved from <http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/TAY-Housing-Svcs-System-Assmt-11.3.15.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> IBID

recognized that, despite the current investments in homeless youth in San Francisco, this population is often overlooked and underserved.

In wake of an uncertain future with the transition of a new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the new presidential administration, Americans across the nation fear the likely possibility of a decline in housing and shelters for individuals in most need. LGBT youth also face homophobic and transphobic discrimination, and are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth population. As many as 40 percent of the nation's homeless youth identify as LGBT, while between 5-10 percent of the overall youth population is LGBT.<sup>15</sup>

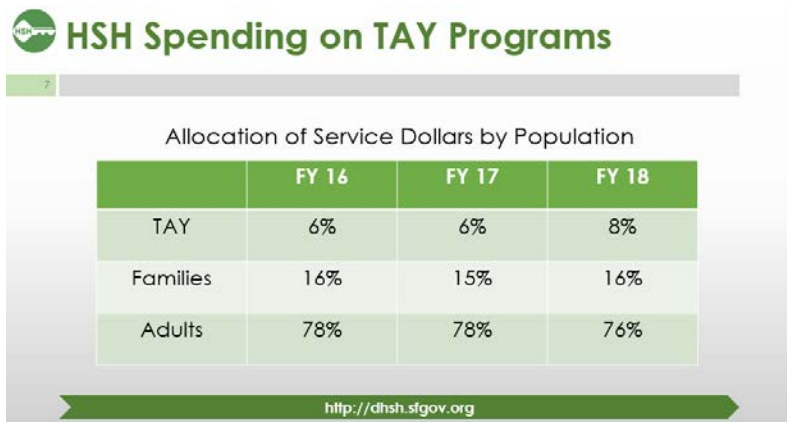


Figure I: Sourced from HSH May 2017 Presentation to the BOS Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee

On any given day in the United States, there are between 353,000 - 503,000 youth ages 12- 24 who experience homelessness,<sup>16</sup> with only about 4,000 youth shelter beds available across the country.<sup>17</sup> According to the Coalition on Homelessness, in San Francisco alone there are approximately 3,200 homeless children under age nineteen live in San Francisco, a 94% increase over the homeless youth population in 2007.<sup>18</sup> Each year, approximately 5,000 young people die on the streets in the U.S. because of illness, assault, or suicide.<sup>19</sup> These youth are also susceptible to incarceration and the dangers accompanying living on the streets: One third of this population has been involved with the juvenile justice system, 75% have used illegal substances, 20% of San Francisco youth traded sex for a place to stay compared to 5% in 2013, and one in three are approached by a recruiting “pimp” within the first forty-eight hours of being on the street.<sup>20</sup>

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required public agencies and service providers to conduct a Point in Time count of the homeless population in their cities every odd-numbered year since 2005. Beginning in 2007, San Francisco was among the first cities to count homeless youth as a distinct population from the adult homeless population. In San Francisco's 2015 Point-in-Time count, there were nearly 1,600 unaccompanied youth, accounting for 21% of all homeless individuals counted.<sup>21</sup> Unfortunately, even with these counts and statistics, a large number of youth experiencing homelessness are unaccounted for.

<sup>15</sup> “National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth.” GLAAD. <http://www.glaad.org/blog/national-campaignyouth-shelter-seeks-housing-homeless-lgbt-youth>

<sup>16</sup> Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2013 Report On Incidence and Needs, p. 1

<sup>17</sup> “National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth.” GLAAD.

<sup>18</sup> Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco

<sup>19</sup> “Streetwork: Homeless Youth Facts.” Safe Horizon. <https://www.safehorizon.org/get-informed/homeless-youth-statistics-facts/#statistics-and-facts/>

<sup>20</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

<sup>21</sup> DSHH May 10, 2017 Presentation to the BOS Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

The homeless youth population is not homogenous, representing many different needs. However, all homeless youth need shelter, food, water, and clothing. Indeed, we have seen that when these needs are addressed, these youth take the lead and graduate from intensive training programs and serve the City as policy advisors, youth commissioners and community advocates. When given the opportunity, many homeless and formerly homeless youth contribute meaningfully to San Francisco. Nevertheless, to make this successful transition out of homelessness, young people need the stability of housing as well as access to flexible supportive services.

## UPDATES

### Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing

Since coming online, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has made meaningful steps to address the needs of homeless youth. Ali Schlageter was brought on as the Youth Programs Manager, the staff person dedicated to youth and TAY homelessness. The Youth Commission is excited to work with Ms. Schlageter and the department on the needs for homeless youth.

In 2016, DSHS launched an application to be considered a community for HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant on behalf of San Francisco. Thankfully, HUD announced in early 2017 that San Francisco was selected for the YHDP grant, and DSHS has been working with service providers, city agencies, SFUSD, and the Youth Commission to create a community plan for how the YHDP award will be spent. The Youth Commission looks forward to seeing the completed plan, and the impact the YHDP grant will make in serving our homeless youth. The commission also look forward to working with the YHDP Youth Advisory Board (YAB).

The Youth Commission thanks Mayor Lee for his leadership in creating a Department on Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DSHS), and congratulate Director Jeff Kositsky on completing his first year leading the department.

### May 2017 Youth Homelessness Hearing

A May 2017 Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Safety committee hearing brought much needed attention to the issue of youth homelessness and the City's investments in services for youth experiencing homelessness. The Youth Commission looks forward to the Board of Supervisors continuing the conversation on the needs for homeless youth, and to seeing the discussion reflected in this year's budget. Some areas highlighted during the hearing that are in need of further discussion include:

- **The City's outstanding need to create a TAY navigation center in accordance with the 2016 ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors.**
- **The need for City involvement in siting a new home for the Homeless Youth Alliance.** HYA lost its lease three years ago and now operates without an office to serve some of the highest-needs youth in the City; and the possibility of using City land and/or park assets to address this need
- **The need to increase the City's overall investment in meeting the needs of youth and TAY experiencing homelessness.** 6% of the DSHS budget specifically addresses the needs of homeless youth in the current fiscal year. 76% of the budget is for homeless adults.

- **Seeing that the needs of disconnected TAY 18-24 will be represented in DCYF's upcoming July 2017 Request for Proposals/investments for the next five years.** In past years, youth commissioners have recommended committing 1/3 of the Children & Youth Fund growth funds (1/4 cent phase- in over four years after the 2014 reauthorization) to serve as a baseline commitment for services specifically for disconnected TAY within the Children and Youth Fund.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan.

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Department of Public Health, and the Human Services Agency to implement the housing recommendations of the Transitional Youth Task Force and the TAYSF 2014-2016 priorities document,<sup>22</sup> including and especially the goal of identifying the remaining 120 housing units in the 2015 TAY Housing Plan.

### 2. Recommit to the TAY Housing Plan by establishing a new 2025 TAY housing goal.

The Youth Commission urges the City to establish a new TAY Housing goal for the years ahead. Ensuring more designated TAY units are created in the near future, beyond the 2015 goal of 400 units, will create necessary exits for homeless and marginally housing TAY.

### 3. Plan for the on-site supportive service needs of TAY in supportive housing, address the outstanding need for residential treatment for TAY, and address TAY emergency housing needs by establishing a TAY navigation center.

The Youth Commission encourages the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to plan for the commitment of applicable funds for on-site case management and other services associated with the construction of the remaining 120 units in the TAY housing plan. We urge for the establishment of a TAY-specific residential treatment option for TAY seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment. Finally, we urge for the prioritization of the establishment of a TAY navigation center to address the emergency shelter needs of transitional age youth in accordance with the Board of Supervisors' 2016 ordinance.

### 4. Invest and explore other ways to promote positive housing outcomes for TAY.

While, youth commissioners recognize the importance of creating housing units for our City's most disconnected young people, we also recommend analyzing housing outcomes for TAY who would not normally be eligible for TAY housing programs, in order to consider additional less resource-intensive supports to help TAY achieve positive housing outcomes, including: financial education, move-in costs or rental subsidies, apartment-hunting/placement support, and tenants' rights education.

<sup>22</sup> TAYSF, Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth, Recommendations to Improve the Lives of TAY in San Francisco. Retrieved from <http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=48565>.

## **5. Declare a Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness.**

The Youth Commission, along with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street, urges the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to declare a Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness. In making this declaration, we urge the city to make meaningful investments into ending youth and TAY homelessness in San Francisco, support flexible shelter and housing practices that meet the unique needs of this population, adopt best practices coming out of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Community Plan, and create space and support for service providers to work collaboratively together and with the city.



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**2017-18 & 2018-19**

