



## Application for 2015-2016 Term

*Do you have an opinion about how your City makes decisions that affect you and your friends? Do you want to be involved with youth representation at City Hall?*

*Join the San Francisco Youth Commission!*

*Due April 20<sup>th</sup> by 7:00pm.*

San Francisco Youth Commission  
City Hall, Room 345

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 554-6446

Fax: (415) 554-6140

Email: [youthcom@sfgov.org](mailto:youthcom@sfgov.org)

[www.sfgov.org/yc](http://www.sfgov.org/yc)

Please refer questions to:

Adele Carpenter or Allen Lu, Youth Commission Staff

Phone: (415) 554-6446

Email: [youthcom@sfgov.org](mailto:youthcom@sfgov.org)

# APPLICATION FOR 2015-2016 TERM

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## Who We Are:

The Youth Commission is a group of 17 San Franciscans between the ages of 12 and 23. Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints one Youth Commissioner, and the Mayor appoints six more.

## What We Do:

-Our job, which was created by the voters of San Francisco and makes us accountable to the whole City, is to stand up for the needs of all young people in the policy and legislative debates at City Hall.

-Whether it comes to MUNI, housing, education, juvenile justice or health and wellness, we serve as authentic advisors on youth issues to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. (See the next page for some examples of our recent work.)

-We read laws, talk to Supervisors and the Mayor Office, hold discussions with other young people in our communities, organize events and hearings, do research on policy and write resolutions.



## How We Do It:

-Youth Commissioners can influence government in a number of ways:



-For example, the Youth Commission must consider any proposed law that would affect young people and decide whether or not the proposed law would be good for young people. Youth Commissioners then have opportunity to convince lawmakers to pass or reject the proposed law.

-Also, Youth Commissioners can develop their own policies and laws relating to young people and try to convince the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to pass them.

## When:

-The Youth Commission is a very serious time commitment.

-The commission has a minimum time requirement of 15 hours per month, spread out over about 4 hours per week.

-There are full commission meetings that you are required to attend at least twice a month. There are also at least three other kinds of meetings you must attend at least once a month: small

committee meetings, meetings with members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office, and meetings with young people outside of City Hall in various communities across the city.

### **Do I Need Previous Experience?**

-No! Anybody can be a Youth Commissioner!

-The only requirements are that you live in San Francisco and be between the ages of 12 and 23 when you are appointed.

-And: be passionate about youth and community issues—about the decisions the City makes that affect you and your friends!

### **Do I Get Paid?**

-No—the City Charter doesn't allow Youth Commissioners to be paid.

-However, you can receive health care.



## **RECENT EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK**

### **Free MUNI Fast Passes for low- and moderate-income youth**

In February 2010, MUNI planned to raise the price of the Youth Fast Pass to \$30/month at the same time as San Francisco students were experiencing cut-backs to yellow school bus service.



After first working to get a limited number of discounted passes approved, the Youth Commission worked with community-based organizations to advocate for Free MUNI for San Francisco Youth. In 2012, MUNI's Board of Directors approved a 16-month pilot that would provide 40,000 eligible youth free bus passes beginning in March 2013. In 2014, the program was made permanent!

Over 35,000 low- and moderate-income San Francisco youth can now take transit for free!

## Lowering the Voting Age to 16

Youth commissioners adopted a resolution calling for the voting age in municipal and school district elections to be lowered to 16 in San Francisco.

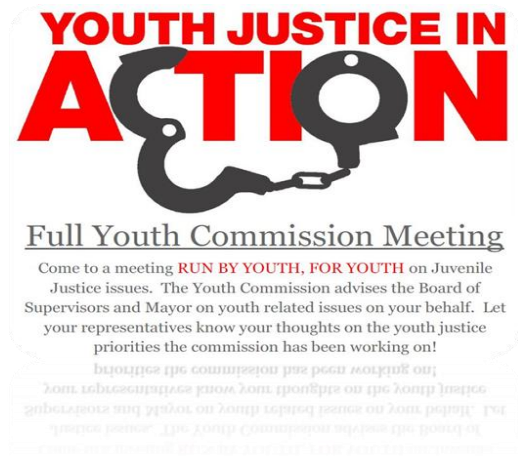


Youth ages 16 and 17 can drive cars, work, pay taxes, and be tried in adult criminal courts, but can't directly participate in the decisions that affect our lives by voting! As some in our country seek to limit the political participation of young people and communities of color, we want to expand the electorate in San Francisco and have the ideas of youth front and center when it comes to dreaming up solutions for our City!

## Working for the rights of youth in the juvenile justice system

Members of the Youth Commission's youth justice committee have worked on several initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of justice-system involved youth.

Youth commissioners have promoted a restorative and rehabilitative approach to juvenile justice by advocating for full access to the recreation yard at juvenile hall.



They have advocated against the arming of juvenile probation officers with firearms and for police training on youth-police interactions to promote better understanding and the use of de-escalation techniques.

# HOW TO APPLY

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The application process and timeline for the 2015-2016 term are as follows:

Fill out the attached application (i.e., personal information, applicant agreement, and essay questions) and turn it in to the Youth Commission (by fax, email, regular mail or in person). **The application is due by Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

Come in for an interview with Youth Commission staff and youth commissioners.

**Exact dates and times will be announced after you turn in your application.**

The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office might ask you to come in and do their own interviews. **You are welcome to contact the Mayor and the Board yourself!** Just ask us how.

The Youth Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office of who to appoint to the commission. **Ultimately, the members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor choose who to appoint to the Youth Commission. We hope the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors make their appointments by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (or soon thereafter).**

The 2013-2014 Youth Commission term begins at the Beginning of the Year Retreat on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\***

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Youth Commission is a serious time commitment.

If appointed, in addition to the required 15 hours per month described on the "Basic Information" page above **you are required:**

*(1) TO ATTEND A 3 DAY RETREAT SEPTEMBER 5, 6, AND 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015—ALL 3 DAYS;*

*(2) TO ATTEND ALL OF A FULL, TWO-DAY "MID YEAR" RETREAT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup> AND JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

# PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional optional information:

Ethnicity/Nationality/Race \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual orientation \_\_\_\_\_

Gender identity \_\_\_\_\_

If you are or will be in school, what school will you attend in the fall of 2014?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list all other schools you have gone to:

\_\_\_\_\_

What communities do you feel connected to?

*(Examples: Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Disabled, Homeless, Teen Parent, Low-Income, Irish American) Remember: you are not limited to these choices. Feel free to add your own.*

\_\_\_\_\_

# APPLICANT AGREEMENT

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*Please initial next to the statement(s) you agree with.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(name)

**Certify that:**

\_\_\_\_\_ The information provided in this application is accurate and I have made every attempt to answer all questions truthfully and to the fullest extent possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed the application and the required dates for the 2014-2015 Youth Commission term and understand that the 15 hour a month requirement is mandatory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this year's Beginning of the Year Orientation Retreat will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 22, 23 and 24, 2014, and that my attendance is required on *all* days. I also understand that there will be additional days of training, and on Saturday and Sunday, January 10 and 11, 2015—and that all of these days are required.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# ESSAY QUESTIONS

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- 1) Why do you want to be a Youth Commissioner?
- 2) What are some issues that affect you or your community? If you had a meeting with the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors tomorrow, what would you talk about with them and advise them on?
- 3) What are some of your past accomplishments that you are proud of?
- 4) The Youth Commission requires a commitment of at least 15 hours a month. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. What other commitments do you have during the school year and in what ways are you prepared to dedicate time to meet the Commission's goals?
- 5) Please provide a letter of recommendation—a few paragraphs are sufficient—from someone not in your family (for example, a teacher, counselor, probation officer, etc.) regarding your work. **THIS IS OPTIONAL.** If you can't get or don't want to submit a letter of recommendation, please explain why.

***If submitting via email, PDF format is preferred. Submit application in person, by fax, regular mail, email or carrier pigeon to:***

San Francisco Youth Commission  
City Hall, room 345  
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Fax: (415) 554-6140  
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