



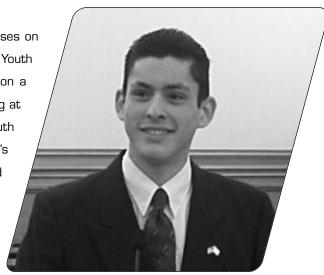
annual report 2001-2002

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letter from the chair of the youth commission

The 2001-2002 San Francisco Youth Commission term was filled with amazing successes on behalf of the youth of the City and County of San Francisco. The achievements of Youth Commissioners, both past and present, have given the San Francisco Youth Commission a global reputation for holding elected officials accountable to ensuring that youth are sitting at the table. This year the Taiwan National Youth Commission hosted the San Francisco Youth Commission during a Global Youth Summit in Taiwan's Capital City of Taipei. Taiwan's National Youth Commission expressed their interest in mirroring the structure and policies of the San Francisco Youth Commission. The San Francisco Youth Commission continues to impact entire cities, states, and countries by exposing leaders to the power of our youth.



Early in the term, the power of youth was rallied to respond to the aftermath of the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001. Soon after the fateful event, members of the Youth Commission held a meeting in the

" the leaders of tomorrow have risen within this tragedy as the leaders of today"

- commissioner tanene allison

basement of City Hall to formulate a statement to the youth of San Francisco. My fellow Commissioners and I will not soon forget that night, as we remained in the building until 9:00 p.m. and swore to work to compose a statement that would address the unique negative impact the events had on children and youth.

Following a difficult and somber start to the year, the Commission was determined to proceed with its mission and its work. The proposed budget for the City and County of San Francisco's 2002/2003 fiscal year included

a number of cuts to youth programs as a result of the down turning economy. In order to defend youth funding, the San Francisco Youth Commission responded with committee statements as well as resolutions from the full Commission. In addition to the budget, the San Francisco Youth Commission dedicated itself to a plethora of issues, many of which were spearheaded by the Commission's outstanding committees. Our key issues included an assessment of San Francisco Unified School District's Wellness Centers, opposition to the expansion of Juvenile Hall, the need for Skate Parks, and the conditions of San Francisco's Community Schools. This year the Commissioners extended themselves by holding a number of community meetings in order to assess the wants and needs of youth in our city. Furthermore, I had the honor of signing more pieces of legislation than any other Chair in the Commission's history. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the San Francisco Youth Commission and look forward to watching the Commission expand through the years.



The San Francisco Youth Commission could not function without the tireless work of the Commission staff and those organizations that have served as our partners through the years. Therefore, this report is dedicated to the Commission staff and to our partnering organizations who believe in and devote themselves to the power of youth.

Anthony Valdez, Chair

San Francisco Youth Commission 2001/2002

2001/2002 youth commission

Tanene Allison

Age: 20

Office: Media and Public Relations

Officer

Committee: Executive

Appointed by: Supervisor Gonzalez

Jesse Arreguín-Fernandez

Age: 17

Office: Government Affairs Officer Committee: Youth Recreation and

Services, Executive

Appointed by: Supervisor Newsom

Watson Attai*

Age: 13

Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Kamel Jacot-Bell

Age: 21

Committee: Youth Justice

Appointed by: Supervisor Ammiano

Nadine Campeau

Age: 17

Committee: Public Health
Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Kevin Chang

Age: 14

Committee: Youth Recreation and

Services

Appointed by: Supervisor Yee

William Fosselman

Age: 19

Committee: Housing

Appointed by: Supervisor Maxwell

Michael Geodzhayev

Age: 14

Committee: Education

Appointed by: Supervisor Daly

Jeffrey Kwong

Age: 14

Committee: Education

Appointed by: Supervisor Peskin

Max Lantz

Age: 14

Office: Operations Officer

Committee: Education, Executive

Appointed by: Supervisor

McGoldrick

Maria Martin

Age: 13

Committee: Public Health
Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Bridget Mejia*

Age: 16

Committee: Public Health
Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Millicent Olawale

Age: 13

Committee: Youth Justice
Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Vinia Ramos

Age: 16

Committee: Education

Appointed by: Mayor Brown

Anthony Valdez

Age: 17

Office: Chairperson
Committee: Executive

Appointed by: Supervisor Hall

Gerlie Vedad

Age: 20

Committee: Housing

Appointed by: Supervisor Sandoval

Mari Villaluna

Age: 21

Office: Community Affairs Officer Committee: Youth Justice, Executive Appointed by: Supervisor Leno

Staff:

Colleen Montoya

Director

Nicole Derse

Youth Empowerment Coordinator

Ron S. McCan

Program & Policy Coordinator

* Did not serve full term

the commission's response to the events of september 11, 2001

In September of 2001, the Youth Commission came together to respond to an event no one imagined we would ever be faced with. After September 11th, the Commission came to the conclusion that, as visible youth leaders in the community, we needed to respond with a strong voice of peace, tolerance, and compassion.

Acknowledging the fact that we were also confused, and feeling bombarded by an array of conflicting emotions, we simply put down in words what we clearly did know.

We took our words, and our experiences as youth, and encouraged bravery in the form of positive action. We knew that positive solutions would only come from us combining our knowledge from the history we had studied with our hope for the future, and determining to respond in the light of love, not hate, no matter how angry we might have been. For us, as a Commission, that meant spending several evenings in a basement conference room of City Hall, writing late into the night, in order to produce this statement in a timely manner. Out of all that we learned through our writing of this letter, and what we continued to learn as we received the community's reaction to it, the concluding line of the letter became more and more relevant and true.

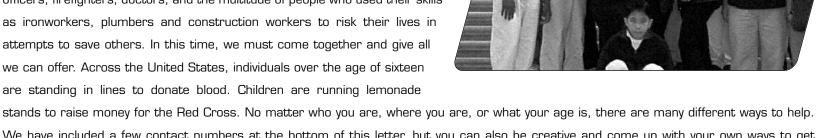
We, as the leaders of tomorrow, must rise within this tragedy as the leaders of today.

September 20, 2001

Dear Fellow Youth,

There are no adequate words to express the sadness and grief caused by the recent acts of terrorism on September 11, 2001. The San Francisco Youth Commission joins with the rest of the world in extending our thoughts and concerns to all those experiencing pain and unnecessary suffering.

When faced with such evil, we must look for the good to get us through. We have witnessed an overwhelming amount of such goodness in the spirits of numerous individuals. We can gain our hope from the faces and stories of the police officers, firefighters, doctors, and the multitude of people who used their skills as ironworkers, plumbers and construction workers to risk their lives in attempts to save others. In this time, we must come together and give all we can offer. Across the United States, individuals over the age of sixteen are standing in lines to donate blood. Children are running lemonade



We have included a few contact numbers at the bottom of this letter, but you can also be creative and come up with your own ways to get involved.

During this time it is natural to feel fear and anger, however, we cannot let those emotions define us and control our actions. We must continue to act with the courage and bravery that the human spirit has shown so strongly in light of recent events. We are in the same position that you are; we are confused and unsure of all the answers. What we do know is that, as youth, it falls upon us to take charge of what we can control—our own actions. We know, and history teaches us, that it is not acceptable to discriminate against anyone for any reason, including race and religion. Our actions must reflect our knowledge; we must not let history repeat itself.

We are in a battle against hate. The hate that caused terrorist attacks against the United States of America is no different than the hate that exists in our communities, schools, and homes everyday. By committing acts of hate, whether they are verbal or physical, we rise no higher than those who committed the cowardly crimes against humanity on September 11th.

In this time we must come together. We need to talk to and check in with our friends, family, neighbors, teachers, and community members. Everyone is having a hard time dealing with the situation, and we need to respect everyone's way of handling it. Beyond just those people we know, we also have to increase our respect and understanding for those we do not know. Everyone is in this together. Realize that while you are on a bus, or walking down a street, that you are with other humans. It is as simple as saying hi. If we cannot respect the humanity of the person next to us, it will be impossible to respect the humanity of someone on the other side of the world.

Also, in this time we need to appreciate the rights that we hold as Americans. Honor your rights to freedom of speech, freedom to peaceably assemble, and also the freedom to vote. Let us trust in our government, which upholds those rights, but not forget to hold them accountable to make decisions that reflect the opinions of the people they represent, including us as youth. We encourage you to contact your local representatives and make sure your voice is being heard.

Through this experience we have learned that not all leaders are those we see on television discussing these horrific events. Emerging from the rubble have come courageous leaders, the everyday people out on the frontlines, those repeatedly exerting their last ounce of hope, bucket by bucket, hand by hand, human by human. The actions we choose to take in this moment will define the future of generations to come. In response to this unprecedented time upon the world's stage it falls upon us, as youth, to heed the battle cry.

We, as the leaders of tomorrow, must rise within this tragedy as the leaders of today.

In Peace,

San Francisco Youth Commission

2001-02 term highlights: committe highlights

Education Committee: by Commissioner Max Lantz

The main focus of the Education Committee during the 2001-2002 term was the relocation of Phoenix High School. At a committee meeting held in the Fall of 2001, the committee learned that Phoenix High School (also known as "1950") did not have an actual building, but was only a group of bungalows. The committee members immediately scheduled a meeting with a group of Phoenix students to discuss the conditions of the school. During the meeting, the students expressed their concern about the dangerous location of their school (16th and Mission Streets) and stated that it was their biggest problem.

Early in 2002, members of the Education Committee met with students again to present them with a number of options regarding the location of Phoenix. Based on feedback from the Phoenix High School students, the committee drafted a resolution voicing concern about the location of the high school and requesting that the San Francisco Unified School District make the school's relocation a top priority. The resolution was passed by the Youth Commission and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors where it was passed unanimously. After many months of collaboration between the Education Committee, the San Francisco Unified School District, and the staff and students at Phoenix High, the Superintendent of Schools stated that the District would actively look for space that could be leased to the school dis-

trict and that could house the high school. At the time of this report, it had been announced that the San Francisco Unified School District had secured a new location for Phoenix High School.

Public Health Committee

The Public Health Committee strongly believes that students need to be able to access health services within the school setting. Based on this belief, the committee members focused their efforts during the 2001/02 term on advocating on behalf of San Francisco's seven school-based Wellness Centers. Public Health Committee members toured several Wellness Centers, attended the Wellness Center Implementation meetings, and held a public hearing in April 2002. The hearing, co-sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, drew close to 100 people. Youth spoke passionately about their experiences with the Wellness Centers. The committee used its recommendations from the hearing to advocate for more accessible and expanded Wellness Centers.

The Public Health Committee also took an active role in the City's budget process. The committee looked closely at the Department of Public Health's proposed budget and prioritized the programs they wanted to sustain. Due, in part, to the committee's effort, the Ark House of Refuge, a housing shelter for LGBTQQ youth, was saved from the cuts.

Youth Justice Committee

During the 2001/2002 term, the Youth Justice Committee was very involved with citywide youth justice efforts. The committee's central goal was to reduce the number of youth incarcerated in San Francisco. They joined the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the City's commitment to involve all stakeholders in reducing incarceration, and in November 2001, held a hearing on the expansion of the Community Assessment Referral Center, an alternative to juvenile hall. The committee strongly opposed the expansion of San Francisco's juvenile hall and, along with the community's Coalition for Juvenile Justice Reform, spoke out against incarcerating more youth.

Early on in the budget season, the committee looked closely at the Juvenile Probation Department's budget. They took their recommendations to the Juvenile Probation Commission and to several Board of Supervisors' budget hearings. They urged the City to take a stand and to put its money towards prevention and alternatives, and not toward supporting incarceration.

Additionally this year, the Committee changed its name from "Juvenile Justice" to "Youth Justice", because they believed that it more accurately reflected the mission and goals of the Committee.

Youth Recreation & Services Committee

The Youth Recreation & Services Committee had a very active year! The committee started off by evaluating their purpose and goals and deciding to change their name from "Culture and Urban Environment" to "Youth Recreation and Services", focusing specifically on improving recreation services for young people in San Francisco.

Midway through the term, several skateboarders came to the committee to share their experience with harassment and arrest by the San Francisco Police Department. The committee was moved by their stories and began looking further into the issue of skateboarding in San Francisco. In April 2002, the committee held a very successful hearing at which nearly 100 youth and adult community members testified about the need for more skateboard friendly policies and more skate parks in San Francisco. The committee continued to involve the skateboarders as they drafted legislation that would create a Skateboarding Task Force. The proposed task force would empower all communities affected by skateboarding policies, especially youth, to address the issues and make recommendations for improvements. In August 2002, the committee celebrated when the Skateboard Task Force legislation was passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors.

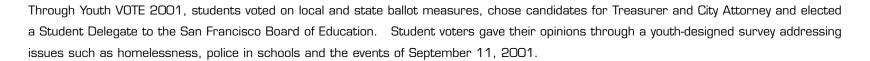
In addition to its success on behalf of skateboarders, throughout the term the committee gave their ideas and support to many recreation projects in the City- including the Presidio Trust, Youth Space, and Park Sessions. They also reviewed the Recreation and Parks Department's budget, spoke strongly against the proposed closure of recreation centers on Mondays, and helped save the centers from being cut.

2001-02 term highlights: youth vote 2001

For the first time, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted to co-sponsor Youth VOTE! The Youth Commission strives to involve young people in the political process and was excited to be a part of this important project. Youth VOTE gives students a strong way to speak their mind about issues that affect their lives. It empowers students to take a more active role in their City and in their schools and it encourages them to engage in the democratic process.

This year, nearly 4500 students from 17 different high schools participated in Youth VOTE 2001! Students from the Youth VOTE Coalition (the Youth Commission and Youth Making A Change) researched ballot measures and candidates and wrote their own ballot handbook to educate student voters. Throughout October,

they gave workshops to participating students on the history of voting rights and the power of the vote.



Throughout the 2001-02 term, the Youth Commission used the results of Youth VOTE 2001 to advocate on behalf of San Francisco youth- for skateboarders, for increased support for high school Wellness Centers, and for closer attention to the effects of domestic violence on youth.

You can view the Youth VOTE 2001 results and highlights at www.sfgov.org/youth_commission

2001-02 term highlights: youth recognition day

One of the Commission's proudest accomplishments during the 2001/02 term was the creation of an annual Youth Recognition Day. Understanding the valuable contributions youth make each and every day, the Commission made a formal request, through resolution, to the Board of Supervisors and to all City leaders to actively recognize positive youth leadership and service. The Commission was concerned that the media's continual coverage of negative images of youth was irresponsible and perpetuated a culture of fear and disrespect of young people. In response to the Commission's resolution, Supervisor Chris Daly authored legislation to create Youth Recognition Day, co-sponsored by the Board of Supervisors and the Youth Commission, to be held annually. The legislation was passed unanimously by the full Board of Supervisors.

The First Annual Youth Recognition Day was held on December 3, 2001. In front of a standing room only, eleven young people (listed below) were presented with commendations from the City and County of San Francisco in recognition of their positive contributions to the community. Following the ceremony, parents, friends, media, and city officials gathered at a reception to further honor and celebrate the awardees.



2001 Youth Recognition Day Honorees

Deborah Gallegos Sima Patel

Rolan Guevarra Maria Pazmino

Marquez Helton Lacey Prowell

Andrea Leung Kristy Shimosaka

Rogelio Kenny Marenco Beverly Yip

Lance Mitchell

2001-02 term highlights: global youth service day



In April of 2002, the San Francisco Youth Commission was given the amazing opportunity to travel to Taiwan to celebrate Global Youth Service Day. Staff and members of the Commission were invited as guests of honor and the visit proved to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all.

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), an annual global event, celebrates and recognizes the contributions of young people to build their communities and their world through service and leadership. Each year on Global Youth Service Day, millions of young people in countries throughout the world highlight and carry out thousands of community

service projects as a way to promote young people as resources in their communities.

Three Youth Commissioners and two staff members represented San Francisco during a five-day visit in Taipei. The trip included visits to area schools, local youth-serving agencies, and ceremonies celebrating GYSD. The Commissioners also had opportunities to meet with many young people in Taiwan. Their conversations included everything from current fashion to education reform to the role of young people in the globalization of an everchanging world. By the end of the five days, everyone was confident that an important dialogue had begun and that the Commissioners had made some very important friendships that would last well beyond their visit



community outreach report

Reaching Out Through Community Outreach!

By Commissioner Mari Villaluna, Community Affairs Officer

The goal of the San Francisco Youth Commission is to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on children and youth issues. The only way that the Commission can effectively advise, however, is to reach out to youth and hear what they have to say. As one Commissioner stated, "If youth don't speak up, we can't listen!" This is why the Commission's community outreach is greatly needed. The Commission achieves its goals through reaching out and talking with youth in San Francisco and by finding out what they need. The Commission then takes that information to City Hall to affect the decisions that impact young people's lives.

This past year, each Commissioner was required to do some form of outreach each month, and to participate in a minimum of four presentations throughout the year. During the 2001/2002 term, the Commission expanded its outreach to include communities that it was not previ-

ously reaching. These communities included immigrant youth, HIV-positive youth, County Community School students, and many others. Through this targeted outreach, Commissioners were able to find out what issues affect youth and to work on issues such as the relocation of Phoenix High School, skate parks, and others. Outreach was conducted in many ways including, tabling, workshops, district community meetings, and much more. Because of this effort and commitment, the Commission reached over 2,000 people, and nearly 75 percent of those were youth!

[01-02] legislative report

resolution #:	description:	author:
0102-001	Resolution Urging The Board Of Supervisors Of The City And County Of San Francisco To Defer On Potential Legislation Mandating Any Potential Road Closure Besides The Approved Sunday And Holiday Closures Within Golden Gate Park.	Arreguin
0102-002	Resolution Commending Jina Tanner On Her Work With Youth In The City And County Of San Francisco.	Allison
0102-003	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Board Of Supervisors, The Police Commission, And The San Francisco Police Department ("SFPD") To Mandate A Police Crisis Intervention Training For SFPD Officers.	Villaluna
0102-004	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Public Health Department, The Department Of Children, Youth, And Their Families, And All City Departments Associated With Youth Issues To Incorporate A Platform Encouraging Family Communication In Their Mission Statements Public Outreach Projects, And Media Campaigns And Urging The Mayor And The Board Of Supervisors To Appropriate Specified Funds In The City's Annual Budget To Departments To Promote Family Communication In Public Outreach Campaigns.	
0102-005	Resolution Commending The Efforts Made By The Office For National Drug Control Policy To Combat Drug And Substance Abuse Problems Affecting Youth.	Kwong
0102-006	Resolution Commending Deborah Gallegos For Her Positive Work In The Movement To Restore A Piece Of San Francisco's Public Art.	Villaluna
0102-007	Resolution Commending The Sutro Annex Neighborhood Group For Their Contributions To The Youth Of The Richmond District As Well As The Richmond District Community As A Whole, Ultimately Resulting In The Construction Of The Richmond Recreation Center.	Lantz
0102-008	Resolution Urging The Office Of The Mayor, And Members Of The San Francisco Board Of Supervisors, To Support And Participate In The 5th Annual Speak Up For Kids Day At City Hall.	Valdez
0102-009	Resolution Commending Theresa Gallegos For Being Elected President Of The Citizens Advisory Committee Along With Her Continuous Efforts To Improve The Lives Of Children In The City And County Of San Francisco.	Valdez
0102-010	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Board Of Supervisors, And Other Invested Parties, To Examine And Implement Integrated Mental Health/Substance Abuse Programs In Concurrence With Supportive Housing.	Allison
0102-011	Resolution Commending The United Farm Workers Of America, AFL-CIO For Its Efforts In Educating The Youth Of San Francisco About The Life Of Cesar Chavez Through Its Creation Of The Cesar E. Chavez Art, Poetry, And Essay Contest (CCAPE) And Its Efforts In The Second Cesar Chavez Holiday In The State Of California, As Well As Officially Supporting The 2002 Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Parade To Be Held On March 24, 2001.	Arreguin/Ramos

resolution #:	description:	author:
0102-012	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Unified School District ('SFUSD') To Reinstate Summer School Core Programs For All Alternative Public High Schools To Serve The Needs Of All Students Currently Not Covered By The SFUSD Summer School Plan For The 2002 Summer.	Kwong
0102-013	Resolution Commending The National Youth Commission (NYC) Of Taiwan On Its Celebration Of Global Youth Service Day And Thanking The NYC For Inviting The San Francisco Youth Commission To Participate In This Important Event To Promote Youth Service And Leadership.	SFYC
0102-014	Urging The Department Of Human Services (DHS) And The Private Industry Council (PIC) To Maintain And Continue The Funding Of The Jobs In The Media Program Of Poor Magazine.	Villaluna
0102-015	Resolution Commending The Day Of Silence Project And The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) And The Students Who Participated For Their Efforts In Organizing And Promoting The Day Of Silence.	Ramos
0102-016	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Board Of Education To Fulfill Their Commitment To "Excellence For All" And Take Action To Relocate Phoenix High School To The Current School Of The Arts Campus Which Is A More Education-Friendly And Safe Environment.	Geodzhayev, Lantz, Ramos
0102-017	Resolution Commending The Anti-Defamation League For Its Continual Efforts In Eradicating Anti-Semitism And Hate In San Francisco.	Kwong
0102-018	Resolution Commending And Congratulating Erika Goncalves For Her Appointment To The State Board Of Education.	Geodzhayev/Lantz
0102-019	Resolution Urging The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) To Make A Compromise With Thurgood Marshall Academic High School (TMAHS) Students, Faculty, Parents & Community On Superintendent Ackerman's Proposal To Lower The Current Graduation Requirements Of 280 To 230 Credits.	Ramos
0102-020	Resolution Urging The Mayor And Board Of Supervisors Of The City And County Of San Francisco To Solicit Input From The San Francisco Youth Commission On Appointments Made By The Mayor To The Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC).	Villaluna
0102-021	Resolution Commending The Families Who Live At 868 Shotwell Street Who Overturned Their Eviction And Also Honoring The Shotwell Block Party As A Celebration Of Resistance Against Eviction And Displacement.	Villaluna

[01-02] legislative report

resolution #:	description:	author:
0102-022	Resolution Commending The Organizers Of Park Sessions And The Recreation & Parks Department For Their Support Of Park Sessions.	Chang
0102-023	Resolution Commending Youth Making A Change (Y-MAC) On Ten Years Of Successful Youth Organizing And Advocacy.	Valdez
0102-024	Resolution Urging The Mayor Of The City And County Of San Francisco And The San Francisco Board Of Supervisors To Restore The Recently Discovered \$4,000,000 Taken From The Children's Fund And Used To Maintain Programs Previously Guaranteed By The General Fund.	Valdez/Allison
0102-025	Resolution Commending Jose Amaya For His Hard Work With The San Francisco Youth Credit Union Program And His Dedication To Youth Economical Education In And Around The Mission District.	Villaluna
0102-026	Resolution Urging The Board Of Supervisors Of The City And County Of San Francisco To Establish A Skateboarding Task Force That Will Provide Policy Recommendation, And Advise The Board Of Supervisors, Recreation And Park Department, Police Department, San Francisco Unified School District, Department Of Public Works And Port Commission Regarding The Expansion And Creation Of Skateboarding Policies And Activities In The City And County Of San Francisco.	Arreguin/Chang
0102-027	Resolution Urging The Board Of Supervisors Of The City And County Of San Francisco And His Honor, The Mayor To Amend Existing Legislation And Expand The Powers And Jurisdiction Of The Local Homeless Coordinating Board Through Providing For The Ability For Legislation To Be Forwarded Upon Request By The Board Of Supervisors To This Said Board, Reducing The Number Of Its Members To 22, Providing Adequate Staff And Administrative Support, Urging The Board Of Supervisors To Implement The Concerns Of The Local Board, And Recommending The Designation Of 2 Seats To Be Representative Of The Homeless Youth And Foster Care Youth Populations.	Arreguin
0102-028	Resolution Urging The Board Of Supervisors Of The City And County Of San Francisco To Secure And Promote The Expansion And Preservation Of Prevention Services And Programming For Youth This Forthcoming Fiscal Year.	Arreguin



san francisco youth commission

city and county of san francisco

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