



San Francisco Youth Commission Transformative Justice Committee Minutes ~ Draft

Monday, October 28th, 2019

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

City Hall, Room 278

1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

There will be public comment on each item.

Members: Nora Hylton (Chair), Rome Jones (Vice Chair), Amara Santos, Arsema Asfaw, and Josephine Cureton

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Hylton called to order at 5:03pm. Quorum is met.

2) Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Public comment was called, there was no public comment. Commissioner Santos motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cuerton.

3) Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. October 15th, 2019

[Document A](#)

There is no public comment. Commissioner Cuerton motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Santos. Motion to approve passes by a vote of acclamation.

4) Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)

Stephanie Chan, Margret - Students at UCSF School of Pharmacy - wanted to talk about emergency room bills - assembly bill 1611 - attempts to limit the cost of emergency bills
Concern: it doesn't apply to medical patients. A lot of these patients get surprise bills and they mentioned this was unfair. They asked the committee what they think of the bill. They talked more about it and mentioned it was sponsored by Scott Weiner. They also mentioned students at UCB are working on this issue.

- Commissioner Cureton: Mentioned ways that YC can support such as writing a letter to governor Newsom. Believes that this topic is important.



- Commissioner Santos: Mentioned how all justice topics are interconnected. TJ focuses on other aspects of justice but finds it important to talk about this topic.
- Staff Estrada: Does this bill support undocumented people?
- Stephanie Chan: It doesn't cover undocumented folks, that is a separate bill.

5) Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Check In (10 min) Presented by Alondra Ramos

Check-in question: What is the story of your name? How do you embody it? Or what is the story you would give yourself?

Commissioners engaged in the check-in and responded to the activity.

B. Youth Justice System Overview (45 – 1 hr)

Presented by Patti Lee (San Francisco Public Defender)

Patti Lee: Impressed by the Commissioners and asked what they want to hear about. What are their experiences with the system and what is legislation they want to propose

Commissioner Hilton: Mentioned what brought her to the commission is the unfairness that she has seen in San Francisco. Being in this commission last year is what kept her in the youth commission. She wants to help better the system.

Commissioner Cureton: There was not much of a connection to city hall in her community, and she wanted to help engage her community. She has been in Public school her whole life and has seen classmates go through the justice system before, and she saw that it was not being a restorative space for them. Learning what goes on in the legal system is something she is hoping to learn

Commissioner Jones: He was brought on to this community by his sister and he believes in the timing of this position. Saw the lack of access to politics in his community and also City Hall. Found a dire need to represent his community in every way he could.

Staff Itzel: This office is a model for the rest of the state. A question that sticks with her is what are the other options for young people for their ideas to be heard in the reform.

Patti Lee: There is still a space open for a seat of the Blue Ribbon Panel. The young Women's freedom center has been advocating for a seat right now. Youth have the most powerful voices in spaces like this. When a young person speaks at these hearings they will listen to you, your voice has power. She would like to engage everyone in speaking to hear their perspective. Wants to talk about the miranda phone.

Commissioner Santos: Would want to see a specific emphasis on children, and how laws in San Francisco vary to where they are nationally.

Patti Lee: Mentioned data across the United States and California that show youth detention as :



- 29 youth of color = 100% youth of color
- 1/3 of the population is female
- 25% latinx
- 69% black
- Lee mentioned conversations with BOS, and the mayor to push for advocacy. There is gender discrimination in courts. Her office hopes to We hope to depopulate the girl population in Juvenile Hall. There are only 10 percent of youth in Juvenile Hall that have serious crimes. She wants to talk about sex charges in the Juvenile Justice system.
- Patti Lee mentioned out of state placement. Glenn Mills and abuse and threats that youth were facing there. There were a number of youth who have been abused and were afraid to end up in DJJ, which is why a lot of them did not complain. Mentioned a case about a wrongful murder conviction and the innocence project.
- Mentioned Jared Adams who was sentenced to 17 years in jail for a sexual assault conviction that he did not commit.
- Also, mentioned instances where police give preference to listening to adults instead of youth when it comes to arrests. Complacency breeds inattention, she mentioned this when it comes to arrests, both viewing them and the youth going through the arrest processes.
- We should be getting rid of probation. Expressed belief in restorative justice and the integration of community. She mentioned mental health programs for youth and adults in the justice system.
- Mentioned support for the closure of juvenile hall.
- When YC visits the juvenile detention center, ask the hard questions! The Merit Center, is really nice, but don't be fooled with the aesthetics. Ask what the behavioral modification program is, how often they get to go in those facilities.
- Talked about PDO, social services, connections with school liaisons and prevention of expulsion. Talked about MLU and the Miranda hotline to prevent youth from being arrested. Mentioned the Jeff Adachi youth rights Miranda Bill. Talked about voluntary confession and injustice when it comes to youth and vulnerable communities.
- "Tell me the truth and I will release you", related that quote to unjust tactics of confession in the justice system. Encouraged more training to students, police officers, and SROs.
- ASK: Go into schools, give trainings on the [Jeff Adachi Miranda Bill](#), importance of remaining silent. Ask the BoE to make "know your rights" a part of the curriculum (Patti can share curriculum)
- Jeff Adachi's magic (Mobilization, program in the Bayview).

Commissioner Asfaw: asked, what happens to a child after they are released?

Patti Lee: Depends of the level of offenses. Home detention with some of the youth that the PDO has worked with.

Patti Lee: Talked about DA Elections and her opinions. Also, talked about how the youth feels about the closure of Juvenile Hall?



Commissioner Asfaw: Mentioned the complete closure of the building, and the lack of safe amenities.

C. Action Planning for Committee Priorities

Local / Community / Legislative Justice System Updates (15 minutes)

(1) Close 850 Hearing 10/18

Commissioner Jones: Nothing too withstanding about the hearing.

(2) DOJ Hearing 10/22

Commissioner Cureton: Mainly informational, BOS called SFPD and a consulting firm. Asked why weren't state DOJ there?

(3) YWFC's Youth Town Hall

Staff Ramos: Presenting to FYC on 11/18. Meeting every Tuesday for their youth work group.

D. Work Time

i) Timeline Review (5 min)

(1) Nov. 12th meeting with A/Captain Yulanda William

Commissioners come prepared with questions.

Confirm with Austin if this will replace regular TJ meeting?

(2) Juvenile Hall Site Visit

ii) Juvenile Justice Reform Recommendations due 11/1 (30 minutes)

Commissioners will review the recommendation sheet and send any new recommendations to Commissioner Hylton & Jones.

E. Appreciations (5 min)

Commissioners engaged in appreciations to each other and self.

6) Staff Report (Discussion Only)

7) Announcements

A. Community Events

Commissioner Jones has an internship with HRC.

Commissioner Jones & Quick are working on a resolution to expand YC budget and charter amendment.

Commissioner Hylton is performing at the Old School Cafe on Friday 11/1 6-9pm

8) Adjournment

Meeting was 7:14pm