



City and County of San Francisco YOUTH COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, February 13, 2023
5:00 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING via WEBEX

Members: Emily Nguyen (Chair, D11), Ewan Barker Plummer (Vice Chair, Mayoral), Steven Hum (Legislative Affairs Officer, Mayoral), Raven Shaw (Legislative Affairs Officer, Mayoral), Gabrielle Listana (Communications & Outreach Officer, D6), Astrid Utting (Communications & Outreach Officer, D8), Chloe Wong (D1), Allister Adair (D2), Maureen Loftus (D4), Hayden Miller (D5), Ann Anish (D7), Yoselin Colin (D9), Vanessa Pimentel (D10), Yena Im (Mayoral), Tyron S. Hillman III (Mayoral).

Present: Emily Nguyen, Ewan Barker Plummer, Steven Hum, Gabrielle Listana, Astrid Utting, Chloe Wong, Allister Adair, Maureen Loftus, Hayden Miller, Ann Anish, Yoselin Colin, Vanessa Pimentel, Yena Im, Tyron S. Hillman III.

Absent: Raven Shaw (excused), Yena Im (excused), Tyrone S. Hillman III (unexcused).

Tardy: Steven Hum, Chloe Wong.

The San Francisco Youth Commission met virtually on Webex and provided public comment through teleconferencing, on February 13, 2023, with Chair Nguyen presiding.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance

Chair Nguyen called the meeting to order at 5:14pm.

On the call of the roll:

Roll Call Attendance: 10 present, 5 absent.

Chloe Wong absent
Allister Adair present



Maureen Loftus present
Hayden Miller present
Gabrielle Listana present
Ann Anish present
Astrid Utting present
Yoselin Colin present
Vanessa Pimentel present
Ewan Barker Plummer present
Steven Hum absent
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen present

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Vice Chair Barker Plummer, seconded by Commissioner Adair, motioned to excuse Commissioner Shaw and Commissioner Im. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call vote: 12 ayes, 3 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana aye
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: Commissioner Shaw's and Commissioner Im's absences have been excused.



2. Communications

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

3. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

No discussion, and no public comment.

Officer Utting, seconded by Commissioner Pimentel, motioned to approve the amended February 13, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting agenda, changing the title of Agenda Item 6b to "Equitable Access to Open Spaces Resolution". The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes, 3 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana aye
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: amended Agenda Approved.

4. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

a. February 6, 2023 (Packet Materials)

No discussion. No public comment.



Commissioner Miller, seconded by Officer Utting, motioned to approve the February 6, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes, 3 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana aye
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: Minutes Approved.

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

No public comment.

6. Resolutions (discussion and action item)

- a. **Combating Fentanyl Usage Resolution** (second reading and possible action)
 - i. Presenter: Commissioner Colin

Commissioner Colin presented the changes that were made to the resolution since the first reading. Commissioner Miller asked what the cost would be for government agencies to purchase the products listed in the resolution, to which Commissioner Colin says she doesn't know but will find out when she meets with the Department of Public Health (DPH). Miller also asked if the school staff or students individually would be responsible for having access to Narcan and if this would be aimed towards a specific level of school grades, to which Colin stated it would be for school staff or interested students and that it would be aimed



towards all school sites. Nguyen said she would recommend that the language have greater clarity on which programs involve Narcan, to which Colin said it's included and there is no current program. Staff also clarified further. Miller asked for the reason for the 100 number, since school populations differ wildly. Multiple commissioners echoed that a proportional amount, such as 10% or 15%, would be more applicable to each school's population. Miller recommended language to include a number determined by the Department of Public Health and SFUSD.

No public comment.

Officer Utting, seconded by Commissioner Adair, motioned to approve the Combating Fentanyl Usage Resolution, including the amendment to the third resolved clause from "at least 100 boxes of Naloxone" to "should be required to have a number of boxes of Naloxone determined appropriate by the Department of Public Health", on page 12. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes, 4 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana absent
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: Resolution Approved with amendments.

- b. **Equitable Access to Open Spaces Resolution** (second reading and possible action)
 - i. Presenter: Commissioner Miller



The authors of the resolution read aloud the final language. Commissioner Miller mentioned the slight changes that were made since the first reading of the resolution, including the language that addressed some of the concerns of other commissioners after the first reading.

No public comment.

Chair Nguyen handed the gavel to Vice Chair Barker Plummer at 5:54pm.

Chair Nguyen, seconded by Officer Utting, motioned to approve the Equitable Access to Open Spaces Resolution. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes, 3 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana aye
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: Resolution Approved.

7. Commissioner Feng Resignation Letter (discussion and action item)

a. Presenter: Youth Commission Staff

No discussion. No public comment.



Commissioner Adair, seconded by Commissioner Miller, motioned to accept the resignation letter from D3 Commissioner, Qien Feng. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes, 4 absent.

Chloe Wong aye
Allister Adair aye
Maureen Loftus aye
Hayden Miller aye
Gabrielle Listana absent
Ann Anish aye
Astrid Utting aye
Yoselin Colin aye
Vanessa Pimentel aye
Ewan Barker Plummer aye
Steven Hum aye
Raven Shaw absent
Yena Im absent
Tyrone S. Hillman III absent
Emily Nguyen aye

Action: Resignation Letter accepted.

Vice Chair Barker Plummer handed the gavel to Chair Nguyen at 6:22pm.

8. JUV Outing (discussion item)
a. Presenter: Youth Commission

Chair Nguyen went over the background of why the Youth Commission toured Juvenile Hall, and talked about her experience seeing what it was like in-person. Commissioner Miller said it was really interested seeing the facility, said that the staff there were very receptive to their questions, that the staff seemed to care about the youth there. Miller also said that there were concerning aspects to the visit including the lack of natural light, non-functioning elevators, lack of investments into the facility, and the coldness of the cells that youth stay inside. Commissioner Adair agreed with Commissioner Miller, and said his experience did feel carceral and that it really did still feel like a jail. Officer Utting said that she was surprised at how large the facility was considering how little the population of incarcerated youth. Vice Chair Barker Plummer said that the facility did seem aged. Chair Nguyen said she did recognize the changes that have been made



since Chief Miller has been the director from pictures she saw, but she does want to have another conversation about how to move forward on this complex issue. Miller said he also hopes to see ongoing changes made to improve the lives of the youth who are incarcerated there, and he said the connecting resources and services when youth leave JJC are critical to supporting them as well. Officer Utting agreed with Miller that it doesn't seem necessary that they'd need to tear down the current facility to build a new one, but that there does need to be steps made to improve youths' lives. Chair Nguyen asked staff if it would be possible to talk to some of the incarcerated youth, and staff said that they're working with the Public Defender's office to see what steps it would take to make that happen but that it's complicated. Chair Nguyen said it's important for them to look into not only how youth got incarcerated, but if the crimes committed were serious enough to have them be incarcerated in the first place. Staff discussed the necessary information that commissioners and presenters need to submit before the hearing, in order for the presenters to know what information to present on or answer in questioning.

No public comment.

9. Committee Reports (discussion item)

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Legislative Affairs Officers

Officer Hum has no new updates. Chair Nguyen asked staff if there was any legislation referred, and Specialist Zhan said that there was nothing referred or requested by the Legislative Affairs Officers. Nguyen also said that the discussion on who will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors, that it will be happening at the YC's Executive Committee meeting this Wednesday. Commissioner Miller asked about the spreadsheet regarding the Google Form with all of the compiled data to compare responses from other commissioners. Miller said he would appreciate if LAOs can reach out to committee chairs to determine what legislation can be referred or taken action on.

- ii. Communication and Outreach Officers

Officer Listana and Officer Utting updated commissioners on the meeting Comms had with Leslie Hu from the United Educators of San Francisco (UESF), to start having conversations with youth at schools to then present and help recruit youth to get involved with or apply to the Youth Commission. They also went to the Enrichment Fair this past weekend.



iii. General Committee Updates

Vice Chair Barker Plummer said that the Executive Committee will continue to overview and recommend changes to the BPPs up to this upcoming meeting on Wednesday, but that that would be the final deadline for any of the committee's BPPs.

No public comment.

10. Roll Call and Introductions (Discussion Item)

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

- a. **Presenters:** Commissioner Colin, Commissioner Im, Commissioner Wong, Commissioner Pimentel, Commissioner Hillman, Commissioner Listana, Commissioner Barker Plummer.

Commissioner Colin has been working on the fentanyl resolution, will be meeting with Supervisors Ronen and Walton in regards to JJC, working on her BPPs, and hoping to work on a resolution in the future regarding the cultural relativity of suspensions and expulsions.

Commissioner Im is absent.

Commissioner Wong has been working on their BPPs, hoping to talk about navigation centers for transitional-aged youth, and reaching out to the D1 office on future projects.

Commissioner Pimentel has been working on the hearing for JJC, meeting with Supervisors Ronen and Walton about JJC, working with the Youth Community Developers to help create a District 10 Youth Council, and has been meeting with the Young Women's Freedom Center weekly. She also met with Leslie Hu from UESF to help discuss Prop G funding and how that funding can be distributed adequately to school sites.

Commissioner Hillman is absent.

Officer Listana has been focusing on BPPs, and she's thinking about writing a resolution on ESL classes since she wasn't able to incorporate that into the BPP process.



Vice Chair Barker Plummer has been researching information on how to best support LGBTQ+ youth, working on BPPs for the CEEC and LGBTQ+ Task Force, and is in communication with the Mayor's Office staff.

b. Other Legislative Introductions

Staff asked commissioners to let them know about what legislation they'd like to be introduced in the future.

No public comment.

11. Staff Report (discussion item)

Director Esquivel Garcia had no updates. Specialist Ochoa gave updates on the Youth Commission newsletter that went out in January, the ongoing work that'll be shared in the February newsletter, and to let him know what content they'd like to have on the newsletter. He also reported back about the recent community conveners he's attended by MAGIC and in the Richmond. He gave an update on the work that the Communications Officers are doing to start planning direct outreach and recruitment to classrooms across several SFUSD school sites. He finally updated the Commission on his visit to the SF LGBT Center, and the dire need for them to be assisted in their need to get youth and TAY youth access to permanent supportive housing. Specialist Zhan asked commissioners to let her know what parts of the YC website they'd like to see changed or updated, but that she is working on those updates and uploading the BPPs onto the website. Commissioner Miller thanked Joy on the work that she's done, but would love to see the website updated more often so he can reference the website to folks with current information. Miller also asked for supporting documents to be sent and submitted in time for commissioners to read through that language in time for the meetings.

No public comment.

12. Announcements (this includes Community Events)

Chair Nguyen said that on February 23rd, the Ocean Avenue Task Force will be having a meeting next week. Specialist Ochoa announced that there will be a District 1 Town Hall with Supervisor Chan and City Attorney Chiu on February 15th, at the Richmond Recreation Center. Commissioner Miller said that there will be a Public Safety Town Hall on Thursday, February 16th on Treasure Island with Supervisor Dorsey and District Attorney Jenkins, in the Ship Shape Community Center. Chair Nguyen said that as



always, there will be a community forum at Manny's to discuss the future of the Central Freeway with State Senator Scott Weiner.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business on the agenda, the full Youth Commission adjourned at 7:22pm.

[Vision Zero]

Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to reconvene the Vision Zero Task Force with a youth seat, to urge the state to implement a bill creating a pilot program for automated speed enforcement cameras to find political will for safety and quick-build projects and initiatives, to prioritize projects near schools, to provide funding for these projects, and to support the enforcement of Focus on the Five as fitting for each police district.

WHEREAS, In 2014, San Francisco adopted a Vision Zero policy that committed the city to eliminate all traffic deaths on city streets by 2024 through engineering safer streets, education about traffic safety, enforcement of traffic laws, and advocating for legalization of new tools including automated speed enforcement¹; and

WHEREAS, 12 city departments including the Municipal Transportation Agency, Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health, Department of Environment, Planning Department, Recreation and Parks Department, County Transportation Authority, District Attorney's Office, Airport Department and Unified School District and the Mayors Office signed on in support of Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, After Mayor Ed Lee pledged Vision Zero in 2015, the San Francisco Vision Zero Task Force met quarterly, however the task force started meeting infrequently after Lee's death in 2018, and in 2022, the task force only met once in March, and advocates believe that "the lack of coordination and leadership has hampered Vision Zero efforts in San Francisco" because on the contrary, the New York Vision Zero Task Force has met every two weeks since 2014²; and

WHEREAS, There has been a lack of progress on Vision Zero, as traffic deaths have risen almost every year since 2018, and San Francisco ended 2022 with 32 deaths, tying with the city's decade high in 2016³; and

WHEREAS, Speed is the largest contributing factor to traffic fatalities, and minor reductions in speed can significantly alter outcomes, which is shown through how "a

¹ Cano, R. (2022, December 24). S.F. and New York each pledged to end traffic deaths. Why is N.Y. making more progress? San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/traffic-death-new-york-17670657.php>.

² Cano, 2022.

³ Cano, 2022.

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pedestrian who is struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 MPH is twice as likely to be killed as a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 MPH⁴ according to the New York City Department of Transportation's Automated Speed Enforcement Program Report⁵; and

WHEREAS, The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Safety Study stated that "Speed – and therefore speeding – increases crash risk in two ways: (1) it increases the likelihood of being involved in a crash, and (2) it increases the severity of injuries sustained by all road users in a crash"⁶; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) cited the NTSB study stating "Between 2005-2014, 31% of all traffic fatalities nation-wide cited speed as a factor"⁷; and

WHEREAS, According to a NTSB study, "Automated speed enforcement (ASE) is widely acknowledged as an effective countermeasure to reduce speeding-related crashes, fatalities, and injuries. However, only 14 states and the District of Columbia use it. Many states have laws that prohibit or place operational restrictions on ASE"⁸; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Assemblymember David Chiu, D-San Francisco, collaborated with the late Mayor Ed Lee and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo on Assembly Bill 342 which would install automated speeding cameras in San Francisco and San Jose as a five-year pilot program, however, it died in committee⁹; and

WHEREAS, Jurisdictions that have implemented ASE programs have seen reductions in crashes, fatalities, and speeding, for example, in zones where cameras were installed in New York City, total crashes declined by 15%, total injuries by 17%, fatalities by 55%, and speeding by 70%¹⁰; and

⁴ New York City DOT. (2017, June). AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT 2014-2016. NYC.GOV. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/speed-camera-report-june2017.pdf>.

⁵ Swan, R. (2019, May 20). Traffic fatalities soaring despite effort to make city streets safer. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-sets-sights-on-no-street-fatalities-but-13857436.php>.

⁶ NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD. (2017, July 25). Safety Study Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles. SFMTA.ORG. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2017/12/3a_ntsb_executive_summary_july_2017.pdf.

⁷ Speed Safety Cameras. (2022, July 5). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/speed-safety-cameras>.

⁸ "NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD SAFETY STUDY." NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, July 2017. Accessed January 27, 2023.

⁹ Swan, R. (2019b, May 20). Traffic fatalities soaring despite effort to make city streets safer. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-sets-sights-on-no-street-fatalities-but-13857436.php>.

¹⁰ Speed Safety Cameras, 2022b.

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WHEREAS, The San Francisco Controller's Office 2017 report on the "Focus on the Five" strategy stated that "effective traffic enforcement programs should be based on proactive rather than reactive measures, and given the proven efficacy of automated speed enforcement in preventing fatal and serious injury collisions, the City and County of San Francisco should continue to advance the use of automated speed enforcement as a tool for encouraging people to drive at safe speed"¹¹; and

WHEREAS, In a 2013 survey¹² of over 3,700 San Franciscans, respondents ranked automated enforcement as 1 of the top 3 priorities that the City should implement in order to improve pedestrian safety in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA waters down their safety, quick-build, and traffic calming projects, but with less than \$1 million in revenue available each year for pedestrian improvement and traffic calming projects, SFMTA staff claim that obtaining funding is the biggest "hurdle"¹³; and

WHEREAS, About 84% of the SFMTA's 2015 & 2016 traffic calming applications and community requests are located within a quarter mile of a school¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 analysis by Zendrive¹⁵, San Francisco was ranked as the county with the 6th most dangerous traffic around schools in the country¹⁶; and

WHEREAS, 42% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school, yet only 26% of students walk, portraying the lack of walkability on

¹¹ Lapka, Monzón, C., & Stevenson, P. (2017, March 10). Insights from research and analysis in support of San Francisco's Vision Zero plan to eliminate traffic deaths. sfcontroller.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sfcontroller.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Auditing/FINAL+Collision+Analysis+3-10-17.pdf>.

¹² Vision Zero Coalition. (2015, February). WHERE SAN FRANCISCO STANDS IN ACHIEVING VISION ZERO | YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT. sfbike.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <http://sfbike.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Vision-Zero-Report-2014-web.pdf?org=451&lvl=100&ite=7046&lea=3362887&ctr=0&par=1>.

¹³ Bialick, A., Goebel, B., Bialick, A., Rhodes, M., Wilson, K., Bialick, A., & Miller, S. (2011, May 20). City's Pedestrian Crash Toll Dwarfs Preventative Safety Costs. Streetsblog San Francisco. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2011/04/12/citys-pedestrian-crash-toll-dwarfs-preventative-safety-costs/>.

¹⁴ SFMTA School Safety Programs. (2021, October 28). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/sfmta-school-safety-programs>.

¹⁵ Study finds risky driving still a problem around schools. (2018, September 17). State Smart Transportation Initiative. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://ssti.us/2018/09/17/study-finds-risky-driving-still-a-problem-around-schools/>.

¹⁶ Walk SF. (2021, July 8). Safe Routes to School. Walk San Francisco. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://walksf.org/our-work/safe-routes-for-all/safe-routes-to-schools/>.

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the city's streets¹⁷; and

WHEREAS, Drop-offs and pickups at schools add up to 80,000 miles of driving per day on our streets¹⁸, and this large amount of traffic around schools increases safety threats for kids and families, and also impacts the local air quality¹⁹; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sacramento is lowering speed limits near schools to 15 mph by qualified streets that are part of Sacramento's Vision Zero program by coordinating the Department of Public Works with the Police Department, school districts, and the City Council²⁰; and

WHEREAS, Lowering speed limits, and planning and completing street modifications and safety initiatives in areas near schools is strategic because "programs that aim to protect children encourage broad support from the community", and these programs have the ability to serve as "logical starting point[s] to employ innovative infrastructure to improve driver behavior and pedestrian safety at crossing" as stated in a report by Safe Routes to School²¹; and

WHEREAS, In general, the SFMTA modifies and deletes elements of its street safety projects, for example, the 8th Avenue Neighborway Proposal, initially released in October 2017²² called for Traffic Diverters, raised crosswalks, and 19 new speed humps, but its revised plans released in May 2018²³ after several community meetings with members of the public and the San Francisco District 1 Supervisor Sandra Fewer, and a public hearing, the project was reduced to only consist of speed humps, which prevented the project from meeting its initial stated goal of creating a safe and comfortable street for people walking and biking in the Inner Richmond by reducing daily traffic volumes more than 50%; and

¹⁷ Walk SF, 2021.

¹⁸ San Francisco County Transportation Authority. (2016). Child Transportation Study. SFCTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/child-transportation-study>.

¹⁹ Walk SF, 2021.

²⁰ "Reducing School Speed Limits - City of Sacramento," n.d.

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Transportation/Programs-and-Services/Vision-Zero/Reducing-School-Speed-Zones>.

²¹ Walk SF, 2021.

²² SFMTA. (2017, October 18). SFMTA PROJECT TIMELINE. sfmta.com. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2017/10/october_8th_ave_boards_101817_final_compressed.pdf.

²³ SFMTA. (n.d.). 8th Ave Proposal FINAL. SFMTA.com. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2019/08/8th_ave_design_final.pdf.

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WHEREAS, Valencia Street is one of San Francisco's most heavily used biking corridors, according to the SFCTA²⁴, but is a part of the High Injury Network and has been plagued by drivers parking in the currently unprotected bike lanes and injured cyclists for year²⁵; and

WHEREAS, In January 2023, Wan Mei Tan, age 64, was killed by a turning driver while in the crosswalk at 16th Street and Valencia, highlighting the urgent need for safety improvements to the dangerous Valencia corridor²⁶; and

WHEREAS, Mayor London Breed called on the SFMTA to build a protected bike lane on Valencia Street within four months from September 2018²⁷, but despite political calls to action, the SFMTA still has not yet delivered protected bike lanes on Valencia Street, and "Protected Bikeways Coming to Valencia Street in 2022" proclaimed an SFMTA project update in summer 2022, followed by the release of a plan to install a center running bikeway in September 2022 which was heavily criticized by the community as still failing to provide adequate safety measures with less than 18%²⁸ of survey response supportive of the proposal, on an FAQ document, the SFMTA even noted that the center running design presented safety concerns for accessing midblock destinations from the bike lane and the SFMTA missed their 2022 goal for implementation; and

WHEREAS, The common argument against the Valencia bike lanes is that they will take away valuable parking spaces²⁹, and decrease sales for businesses, however, according to a Wired article, "In 2013, researchers at New York City's Department of Transportation studied seven stretches of road that had installed bike lanes or created pedestrian-friendly areas. The city crunched the numbers for businesses along those routes and found that by the third year, sales grew faster on five of the streets than in

²⁴ Valencia Bikeway Improvements. (n.d.). SFCTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/valencia-bikeway-improvements>.

²⁵ Swan, R. (2019a, March 7). Breed targets bureaucracy in effort to improve SF pedestrian safety. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Breed-targets-bureaucracy-in-effort-to-improve-SF-13668483.php>.

²⁶ Zhou, Yujie. "Wan Mei Tan: Protesters Block 16th and Valencia Following Pedestrian's Death." Mission Local, January 24, 2023. <https://missionlocal.org/2023/01/wan-mei-tan-protesters-block-16th-valencia-following-64-year-old-pedestrians-death/>.

²⁷ MAYOR LONDON BREED ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST SAFETY | Office of the Mayor. (2018, September 26). sfmayor.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sfmayor.org/article/mayor-london-breed-announces-new-measures-improve-pedestrian-and-bicyclist-safety>.

²⁸ Balakrishnan, E. (2022, December 2). Residents reject central bikeway on Valencia Street. Mission Local. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://missionlocal.org/2022/11/residents-reject-central-bikeway-valencia-sf/>.

²⁹ Hom, Annika. "Valencia's Protected Bike Lane on Track for 2022, Adjusts for Parklets." Mission Local, March 7, 2022. <https://missionlocal.org/2022/03/valencia-bike-lane-en-route-for-2022-adjusts-for-parklets/>.

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the borough overall, on average—up to five times faster, in fact”³⁰; and

WHEREAS, The article also stated that “The truth is that in fairly dense areas, bikes are more efficient at moving people around. You might lose one car driver’s business—but you gain shoppers who now can arrive more easily on bikes”³¹; and

WHEREAS, by making Valencia street more pedestrian and bike friendly, the SFMTA can encourage more people to travel safely, sustainably, and slowly away from cars; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Wong³² a planner from the SFMTA gave a project update and reported in an email that, “the team is looking through the feedback received to update the design prior to presenting proposed changes to the SFMTA Board of Directors in early 2023” for review and proposal; and

WHEREAS, San Jose Avenue, also a part of the City’s High Injury Network, is “dense with kids and families and borders Balboa Park”³³, and “since 2005, 99 people have been injured in crashes along this segment of the street — roughly one every two months” according to data from the San Francisco Department of Public Health data analyzed by Stephen Braitsch³⁴, the founder and creative director of street safety nonprofit Transpo Maps³⁵; and

WHEREAS, Braitsch also cautioned that this number could be higher, because the city ramped up its record-keeping in 2014 as part of the Vision Zero program³⁶; and

WHEREAS, In a 2007 document titled *San Jose Avenue Traffic Calming*, staff from the San Francisco Planning Department wrote that “vehicles continuing from the San Jose

³⁰ ———. “The Battle Over Bike Lanes Needs a Mindset Shift.” WIRED, January 24, 2023. <https://www.wired.com/story/the-battle-over-bike-lanes-needs-a-mindset-shift/>.

³¹ ———. “The Battle Over Bike Lanes Needs a Mindset Shift.” WIRED, January 24, 2023. <https://www.wired.com/story/the-battle-over-bike-lanes-needs-a-mindset-shift/>.

³²

³³ Coale, K. (2023, January 13). It’s the Deadliest Year in a Decade on Our Streets. Can SF Make San Jose Ave. Safe? Medium. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://thefrisc.com/its-the-deadliest-year-in-a-decade-on-our-streets-can-sf-make-san-jose-avenue-safe-2b429f311a05>.

³⁴ Stephen Braitsch @braitsch@sfba.social (@braitsch) / (2022, February 24). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/braitsch>.

³⁵ Transpomaps.org. (n.d.). TRANSPOMAPS. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://transpomaps.org/>.

³⁶ Coale, 2023b.

expressway enter the neighborhood at speeds often in excess of 50 mph”³⁷, and the document called for a “host of interventions including bulb-outs, larger Muni islands, rumble strips, and planted medians to slow cars down and highlight crosswalks”, and “there was another push in 2014 for improvements that went nowhere. The speed limit has since been lowered to 25 mph, but some drivers keep the pedal to the metal”³⁸; and

WHEREAS, In Fall 2022, over 60 people and local businesses brought their concerns to the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, prompting the council to pass a resolution acknowledging the unsafe conditions that impact access to the many nearby schools, parks, local businesses, and transit stops, and recommended the SFMTA do the following: address unsafe conditions on the San Jose Ave. corridor as a part of its Vision Zero Action Strategy to prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities, focus on improvements that increase safety and access for children and families to Balboa Park and the commercial strip, improve the J-Church infrastructure to benefit both transit riders and pedestrians, consider immediate, quick-build safety improvements to the corridor, engage the community around the corridor to develop a comprehensive plan of improvements to increase safety for pedestrians and transit riders, and include safety measures for inclusion in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program³⁹; and

WHEREAS, SFMTA Director Jeffery Tumlin stated at the October 18, 2022 SFMTA Board meeting that his staff was working on solutions and hoped to present a plan to address safety on San Jose Avenue in 2023; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA launched its Vision Zero Quick-Build program to deliver fast, affordable, and adjustable street modifications such as daylighting, protected bike lanes, parking and loading changes, and painted pedestrian safety zones on the High-Injury network, the 13% of city streets that account for 75% of severe traffic injuries and death⁴⁰; and

WHEREAS, According to the City’s latest Quick-Build project list⁴¹, since 2020, there have only been 29 completed Quick-Build projects; and

³⁷ Coale, 2023b.
³⁸

³⁹ Coale, K. (2023, January 13). It's the Deadliest Year in a Decade on Our Streets. Can SF Make San Jose Ave. Safe? Medium. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from

⁴⁰ Improving Safety on our Streets: Vision Zero Quick-Build Projects Taking Shape. (2022, October 19). SFCTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfcta.org/blogs/improving-safety-our-streets-vision-zero-quick-build-projects-taking-shape>.

⁴¹ SFMTA. (2022, December). Vision Zero Quick-Build Project Updates. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2023/01/2022-12_qb_project_updates_20230105.pdf.

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Residential Traffic Calming Program is based on a complex application process with specific windows to apply and applications that require gathering signatures of at least 20 neighbors and a neighborhood vote if the street is found to be eligible for traffic calming⁴²; and

WHEREAS, This extensive process to apply for traffic calming creates barriers for working class people who lack time or resources to navigate the process⁴³; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero's "Focus on the Five" refers to prioritizing enforcement around dangerous driving behaviors in each police district; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero's "Focus on the Five" driving citations include: 1) Speeding, 2) Running stop signs, 3) Running red lights, 4) Violating pedestrian right-of-way, and 5) Failing to yield while turning⁴⁴; and

WHEREAS, As part of its Vision Zero commitment, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) made a commitment in early 2014 to increase the percentage of "Focus on the Five" to 50% of all traffic citations⁴⁵; however, performance data published on a monthly basis by the Controller's Office⁴⁶ reveals that while a few individual police districts have had success in attaining this goal, other districts and the SFPD as a whole have struggled to meet it; and

WHEREAS, Analysis of SFPD citation data from January 2018 to May 2022 shows that FOTF citations have averaged around 35% of all citations written Year-Over-Year (YOY), and the FOTF citations that are written on the HIN are a tiny fraction of all citations written citywide⁴⁷; and

WHEREAS, According to data from the City and County of San Francisco's City Performance Scorecards, SFPD does not focus on FOTF in Northern, Ingleside,

⁴² Residential Traffic Calming Program. (2022, November 29). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/walk/residential-traffic-calming-program>.

⁴³ Residential Traffic Calming Program, 2022.

⁴⁴ San Francisco Police Traffic Enforcement. (n.d.). Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://transpomaps.org/san-francisco/ca/sfpd-traffic-enforcement/analysis>.

⁴⁵ Percentage of Citations for Top Five Causes of Collisions | City Performance Scorecards. (n.d.). sf.gov.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sf.gov.org/scorecards/transportation/percentage-citations-top-five-causes-collisions>.

⁴⁶ Lapka et al., 2017.

⁴⁷ San Francisco Police Traffic Enforcement, n.d.

Commissioner Nguyen, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Colin
YOUTH COMMISSION

02/06/23

Central, and Bayview districts as the percent of total traffic citations for FOTF is below 50%, despite these districts having substantive data demonstrating high numbers of drivers who violate the top 5 traffic violations that cause accidents and risk public safety⁴⁸; and

WHEREAS, The Performance Scorecards further demonstrate an increase in traffic violations in Bayview for running stop signs, an increase in Central for running red lights, an increase in Ingleside for violating pedestrian right-of-way, a huge increase in the Richmond for speeding, an increase in Southern for running red lights, an increase in Taraval for speeding and failing to yield while turning, and a huge increase in the Tenderloin for failing to yield while turning⁴⁹; and

WHEREAS, If SFPD commits to issuing at least 50% of traffic violations for these dangerous and specific five violations, SFPD will greatly help prevent collisions, deaths, and support the City's "Vision Zero" goal to end traffic fatalities by 2024; and

RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) to reconvene the Vision Zero Task Force and hold regular meetings, while also including a seat for a youth aged 12-23, given that San Francisco streets are especially dangerous around schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge State policymakers to reintroduce a state bill for a pilot program to allow for speed cameras in San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to expedite its quick-build projects for major street redesign, including car-free zones, extensive protected bike lane networks and transit only lane networks, regardless of the necessary tradeoffs, such as extensive parking removal and vehicle travel lane repurposing; and be it

⁴⁸ Percentage of Citations for Top Five Causes of Collisions | City Performance Scorecards, n.d.

⁴⁹ Percentage of Citations for Top Five Causes of Collisions | City Performance Scorecards, n.d.

Commissioner Nguyen, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Colin
YOUTH COMMISSION

02/06/23

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to prioritize traffic calming and safety in areas near schools to protect youth and introduce more projects; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to provide significant funding for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to invest in pedestrian safety and achieve Vision Zero goals; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to broaden the spatial scope of its enforcement activities which is supported by a wide body of research in the field of traffic policing and crash prevention; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the San Francisco Police Department to modify its Focus on the Five strategy so that it is better suited to the unique environment of each police district and allows for an appropriately varied response to the problem of traffic collisions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to prioritize citing "Focus on the Five" violations on the High Injury Network; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco urges the 13 city departments that committed to Vision Zero to collaborate to ensure Vision Zero work is being delivered efficiently and holistically; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the following city departments: Municipal Transportation Agency, Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Public

Commissioner Nguyen, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Colin
YOUTH COMMISSION

02/06/23

FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

Health, Department of Environment, Planning Department, Recreation and Parks
Department, County Transportation Authority, District Attorney's Office, Airport
Department and Unified School District.

Commissioner Nguyen, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Colin
YOUTH COMMISSION

02/06/23



SFMTA

San Francisco Active Communities Plan



Phase 1 Presentation

Winter 2023





Agenda

- What is ACP
- Policies and programs
- Outreach and engagement
- Analysis
- Next steps



What is the ACP?

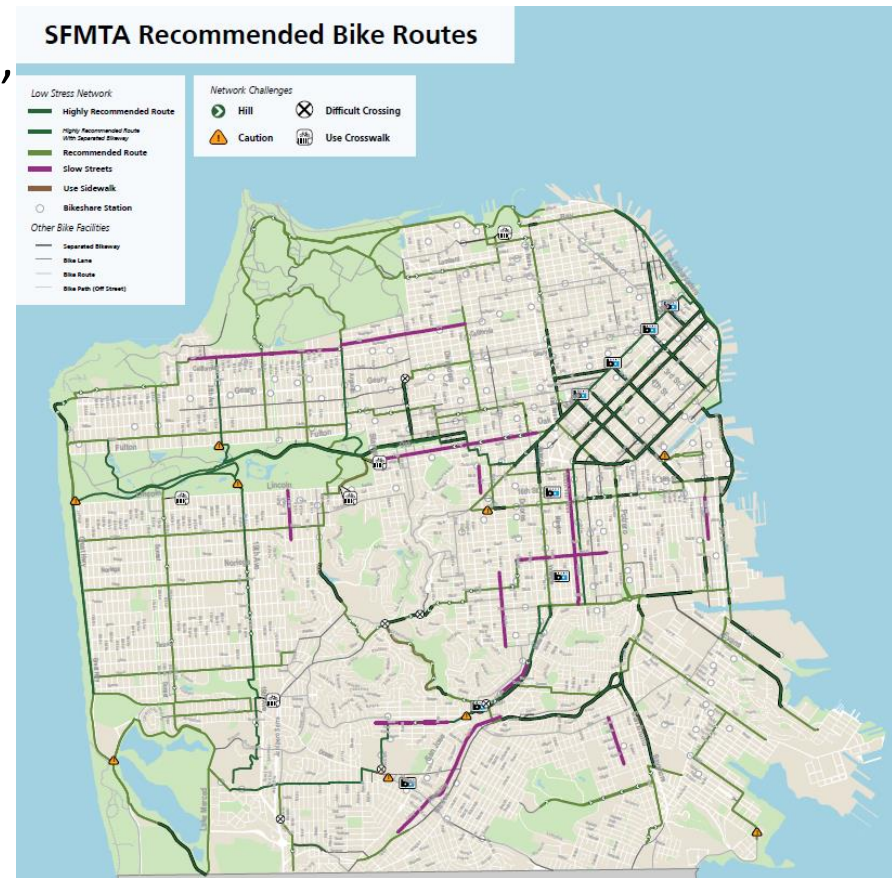


- A new plan for active mobility in SF for the first time since 2009, including:
 - A new Active Transportation Network
 - New supportive programs/policies
- Extensive outreach throughout 2023 will:
 - Be inclusive of all devices that can use the bike network
 - Center needs of priority communities and vulnerable road users
- Plan will be adopted in 2024



The Active Transportation Network

- “Active Transportation Network” is inclusive of people who use wheelchairs, skateboards, scooters, and other electric-assisted devices
- ACP will expand the Active Transportation Network with:
 - More protected lanes
 - Slow Streets
 - Car-free streets
- Adding new supportive facilities, including:
 - Device parking
 - Bikeshare
 - Scootershare





What are the **top transportation issues** facing our city?

What do you notice about the current Active Transportation Network?
What do you like about it and what would you change?

What would an **ideal** Active Transportation Network look like to you?

Let's talk
about the
network

Supportive Policies & Programs



- The ACP is not limited to infrastructure—this is a chance to consider programs, initiatives, and policies to support active mobility, like:
 - Vision Zero education
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Bike Month
 - Bike education classes
 - Micromobility, like scootershare
 - Adaptive bikeshare (BORP)



Let's talk about supportive policies & programs

How many of you have **participated** in a bike education class or Bike Month?

How many of you use **bikeshare** or **scootershare**?

What would **encourage** you or people in your community to **explore active transportation** more?

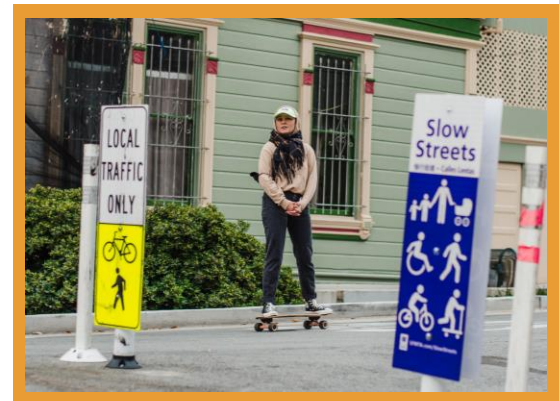
Outreach & Engagement

Year-long phased outreach process

- Broad reach into communities
- Increasing detail as plan develops
- Various ways to participate online and in person

Focus on Equity and Inclusion

- Translated and inclusive materials
- Community-based outreach prioritizes underserved groups



Focus on Equity Priority Communities



- The ACP focuses on neighborhoods where past bike network projects have been divisive
- Our goal is to rebuild trust and align future projects with community values.
- Community partners:
 - **Bayview-Hunters Point:** Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates
 - **Mission District & Outer Mission/Excelsior:** PODER Bicis del Pueblo
 - **Tenderloin:** Tenderloin Community Benefit District
 - **Western Addition & Fillmore:** New Community Leadership Foundation
 - **SoMa:** SoMa Pilipinas



What do we need to ensure people typically left out of this conversation are included?

What barriers to active transportation do we need to be aware of so we can address in this planning process?

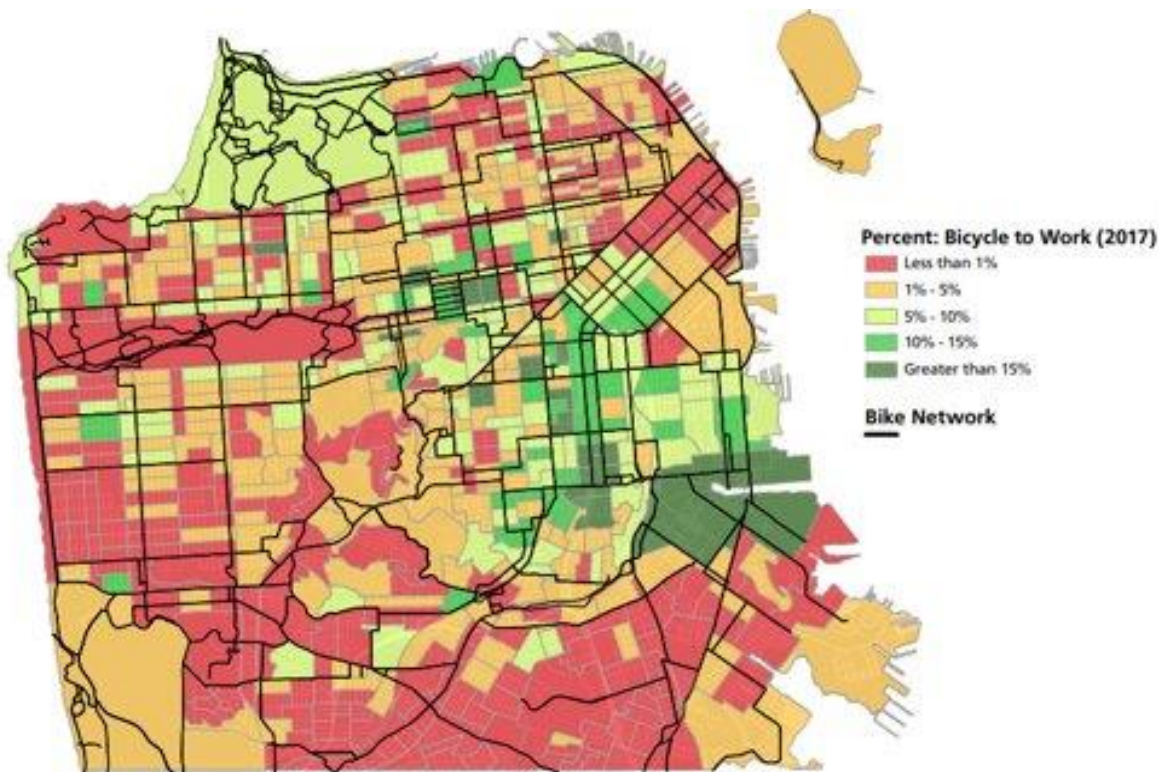
What events are happening in your community this year that the ACP team should we attend?

How would **you** like to be engaged in developing this plan?

Let's talk about
outreach &
engagement

Analysis

Goal: identify areas for bike network improvements that will inform potential new policies and programs



Includes:

- Bike Network & Bike Count Analysis
- Equity Analysis
- Collision Analysis
- Network Connectivity Analysis
- Resident Preference Survey



What information would be most helpful?

What else should we be considering?

Let's talk
about
analysis



Plan Adoption & Next Steps

Spring 2024: Plan adoption by SFMTA Board

Between now and then, you can:

- Get involved in the outreach process
- Spread the word in your community
- Stay in touch with the project team—we welcome your suggestions!
- Subscribe for project updates to see how what we learn over the course of outreach will shape the plan at [SFMTA.com/ActiveCommunities](https://sfmta.com/ActiveCommunities)



Thank you!

Claire Amable
camable@sfbike.org
Director of Advocacy
SF Bicycle Coalition



SFMTA

ActiveCommunities@SFMTA.com

SFMTA.com/ActiveCommunities



Juvenile Probation Department Budget Proposal FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25

JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2023
VERÓNICA MARTÍNEZ
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mayor Breed's Overview & Outlook

- The current situation:
 - Slow-growth revenue with increasing costs forecasts deficit, but does not assume recession
- Forecasted \$728 million **deficit** over the upcoming two budget years; key drivers:
 - Weakening revenue outlook and loss of federal revenues

Mayor Breed's Policy Priorities & Instructions

- Prioritize restoring San Francisco's vibrancy, recovery, accountability, and equity
- Improve public safety and street conditions
- Reduce homelessness and transform mental health service delivery
- **Necessary budget reductions to address projected deficit:**
 - FY 2023-24 → 5% General Fund, \$1,428,939
 - FY 2024-25 → 8% General Fund, \$2,286,303

Citywide Budget Process

- Departments with Commissions to hold two budget hearings, 15 days apart before February 14, 2023
 - Finance Committee – January 24, 2023
 - Full Commission – **February 8, 2023**
- Departments submit budgets for FY23/24 & FY24/25 by February 21, 2023
- Mayor to present proposed budget to Board of Supervisors (BOS) by June 1
- BOS reviews proposed budget in June and July
- Mayor signs Citywide Budget in July

Juvenile Probation Department Goals

1. **Reimagine how the City addresses juvenile crime and delinquency** – from referral through reentry – in collaboration with community and government partners; emphasizing research, evidence-based practices, and innovation; and **sustainably addressing pervasive racial disparities** throughout the system.
2. **Prioritize diversion and connection** to appropriate services and responses at every stage of the youth's contact with JPD. Ensure youth are returned home as quickly as possible, whenever appropriate, and that families are provided comprehensive support. **Maximize the utilization of community-based services** that provide high quality care for all youth and their families throughout a young person's involvement in the juvenile justice system.
3. **Advance a whole family engagement strategy** that places racial equity at its center to ensure that all youth have full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources; that advances youth- and family-centered case plans and goal development to help justice-involved youth and their families thrive; and, that minimizes unnecessary or further justice system involvement.

Juvenile Probation Department Goals

4. **Create a non-institutional home-like secure setting** for both detained and incarcerated youth and young adults that is healing-centered, developmentally appropriate, family-centered, community-connected, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate. Implement daily community presence of community partners; shared leadership with community and city agencies whenever possible; and meaningful opportunities for community input into policies and programming.
5. **Continue to organize and right-size the JPD department and budget** to reflect changes in caseloads, increased emphasis on community-based services, and changes in approach and responsibilities, including DJJ realignment duties. **Bolster equitable leadership development** opportunities for Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander staff throughout the Department, implement change that meaningfully improves the workplace experience of BIPOC staff; enact our organizational belief of redemption and helping people to succeed. **Develop a collaborative approach** to policymaking and service provision to work effectively with community agencies and appropriate city agencies, including health, law enforcement, and schools.
6. **Advance the goals of the City and DJJ Realignment Subcommittee** in our ongoing implementation of DJJ Realignment to effectively support the most impacted youth and young adults, both in the community and in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility located in Juvenile Hall.

Evolving Budget Framework: FY20/21 & 21/22

- FY 20/21 & FY 21/22 budget established key priorities:
 - Comprehensive **clean-up** of JPD finances & budget
 - **COVID-19** response: both fiscal & operational
 - **Right-size** JPD:
 - Lowest budget since FY 13/14
 - Vacant positions eliminated/ lowest FTE in decades
 - Justice reinvestment - \$9M to the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF) to prevent pandemic cuts to services

Evolving Budget Framework: FY22/23

- **Continued** budget clean-up, COVID-19 response, eliminating positions.
- Shifted focus from right-size to **right-structure** for absorbing **new responsibilities**, effecting **transformation**, and **advancing racial equity**
 - Converted vacant Probation Services positions to positions necessary to advance essential work:
 - AB12 Social Work Supervisor, DEI Manager, Training Officer, Youth Justice Transformation Coordinator
 - Expanded justice reinvestment in community-based services
 - Established capacity within DCYF to manage JPD's expanded community investment
- With FY 22/23 adopted budget, JPD anticipated being properly staffed across all divisions.

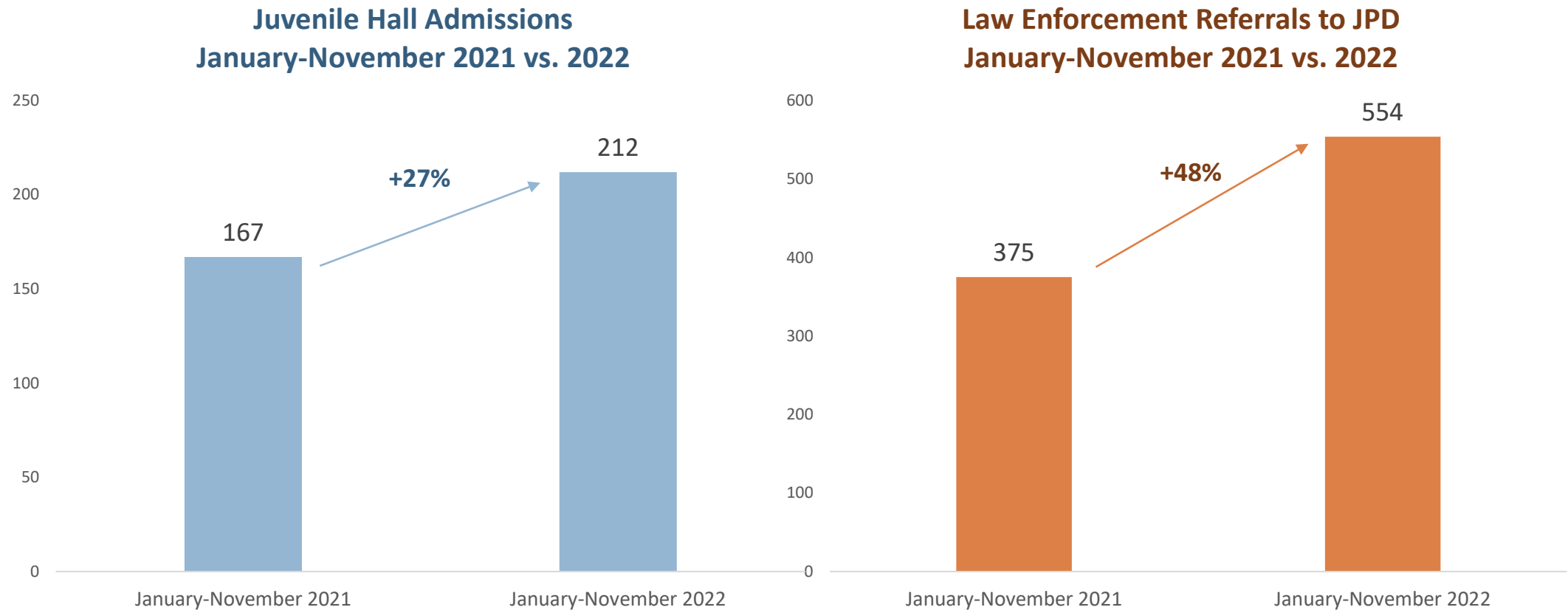
Evolving Budget Framework: FY23/24 & 24/25

- **Continues** all prior budget goals
 - Fiscal/budget accountability; COVID-19 response, justice reinvestment, right-sizing & structuring
- Focus for proposed budget: **implementation**
 - Staffing levels and departmental structure needed to meet **operational** and **transformational responsibilities**
 - Targeted **justice reinvestment** to sustain existing programs, fill service gaps, and expand programming

Juvenile Justice Landscape

- **Close Juvenile Hall Working Group & Blue Ribbon Panel—Implementing Collaborative Approaches**
 - Diversion
 - Out of Home Placement
 - Unaccompanied minors/ Newcomer youth
 - Care Team
- **Implementation of San Francisco's DJJ Realignment Plan**
 - Credible Messenger Life Coaches
 - Whole Family Support
 - Long-term programming for youth committed to Juvenile Hall (positive youth development, restorative justice, vocational, educational, life skills, parenting)
 - Developing less restrictive alternatives
- **Addressing Increasing Referrals, Caseloads, Admissions**

Increasing Admissions & Referrals



JPD Budget Proposal

JPD Total Budget Historical Comparison

JUV Juvenile Probation

	2022 -2023 Adopted Budget	2023-2024 Base Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Changes from 2023-2024 Base	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	Changes from 2023-2024
Sources						
Charges for Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	0
Expenditure Recovery	180,000	180,000	180,000	0	180,000	0
Intergovernmental: Federal	1,366,060	1,366,060	1,542,640	176,580	1,542,640	0
Intergovernmental: State	18,543,073	15,000,451	15,414,216	413,765	13,522,142	(1,892,074)
Other Financing Sources	1,476,000	0	0	0	0	0
General Funds	30,966,893	31,396,839	28,895,992	(2,500,847)	29,372,783	476,791
Sources Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

Uses - Operating Expenditures

Salaries	19,551,800	20,266,846	20,411,507	144,661	21,308,610	897,103
Mandatory Fringe Benefits	10,345,568	10,495,481	10,489,405	(6,076)	10,378,588	(110,817)
Non-Personnel Services	5,123,123	5,122,317	3,985,647	(1,136,670)	3,372,100	(613,547)
City Grant Program	235,000	235,000	0	(235,000)	0	0
Capital Outlay	2,354,346	397,263	397,263	0	0	(397,263)
Materials & Supplies	393,800	393,800	389,347	(4,453)	389,347	0
Programmatic Projects	3,933,073	6,253,783	1,120,426	(5,133,357)	207,655	(912,771)
Work Orders to Other Depts	10,598,316	4,781,860	9,242,253	4,460,393	8,964,265	(277,988)
Uses Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

Uses - By Division Description

JUV Community Investments	0	0	5,835,081	5,835,081	5,557,093	(277,988)
JUV General	21,439,783	19,116,247	12,755,022	(6,361,225)	12,130,216	(624,806)
JUV Juvenile Hall & SYTF	18,083,548	18,565,354	17,898,053	(667,301)	18,209,982	311,929
JUV Probation Services	13,011,695	10,264,749	9,547,692	(717,057)	8,723,274	(824,418)
Uses by Division Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

JPD Total Budget Historical Comparison

JUV Juvenile Probation

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Sources Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

Charges for Services and Expenditure Recovery:

Court Recovery
Payments for
Maintenance,
Utilities, etc.

Intergovernmental: Federal

Title IV-E
Reimbursements

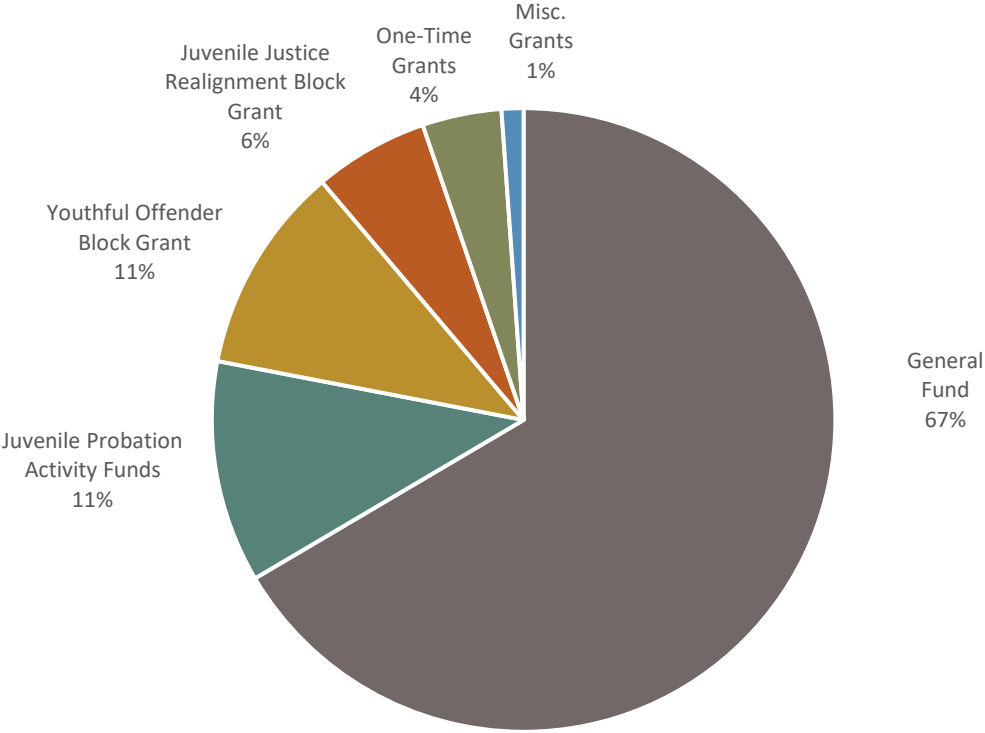
Intergovernmental: State One-Time

Juvenile Facilities Grant - \$1M
FFPSA - \$819K

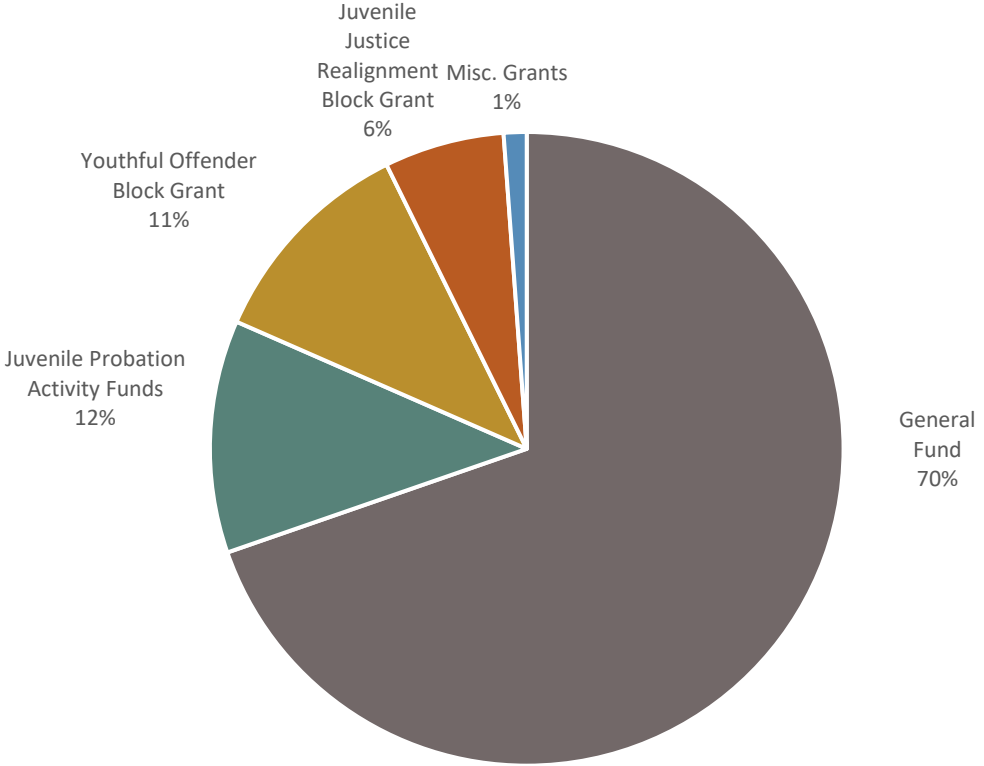
Intergovernmental: State

Juvenile Probation Activity Funding (JPAF) - \$5.3M
Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) - \$4.9M
Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) - \$2.7M
Child Welfare Services Grant - \$396K
Standard & Training for Corrections (STC) - \$75K
Juvenile Reentry Grant - \$50K

Juvenile Probation Budget Sources, FY 23-24
All Funds: \$46,035,848
General Fund: \$30,621,632 (67% of total)



Juvenile Probation Budget Sources, FY 24-25
All Funds: \$44,620,565
General Fund: \$31,098,423 (70% of total)



New State Revenues

AB 178/ Juvenile Facility Grant (\$1,072,479)

“With a focus on providing therapeutic, youth-centered, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate rehabilitative environments for youth, funding allocated from this item shall be used to **modernize units and sleeping rooms; create more normative space; add treatment, vocational, educational, recreational, visitation, and family engagement space; and enhance security infrastructure** to the extent it promotes creation or expansion of these specified spaces.” Legislature has a strong interest in these funds supporting the improvement of facilities for the DJJ Realignment target population.

- FFPSA Certainty and Block Grants (\$794,595)

State funding to support counties transition to Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), focused on services that **prevent out of home placement**, like peer parenting, Wraparound, and multi-systemic therapy.

JPD Total Budget Historical Comparison

JUV Juvenile Probation

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Uses Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

Materials & Supplies:

Food and Kitchen Supplies,
Bedding and Linens,
Clothing, Textbooks,
Furniture,
IT & Telecommunications
Equipment

Non-Personnel Costs:

Juvenile Hall Replacement Debt Payment (\$2.5M),
Training & Travel, IT Systems (Automon), Software
Licenses & Maintenance, Gift Cards, Translation
Services, Consulting, Electronic Monitoring,
Administrative Costs (printing, mail, etc.)

Work Orders to Other Departments:

DCYF: Community Investments
DHR: Workers' Compensation Costs, City Hall Fellows, Training
City Administrator: Risk Management Fees, Vehicle Fuel and
Maintenance, Real Estate Costs (repairs & maintenance)
HSA: Eligibility Workers, Parental Peer Program
DPH: Dietician and Clinician (JJC)
PUC: Utilities
DT: Technology Infrastructure

JPD Total Budget Historical Comparison

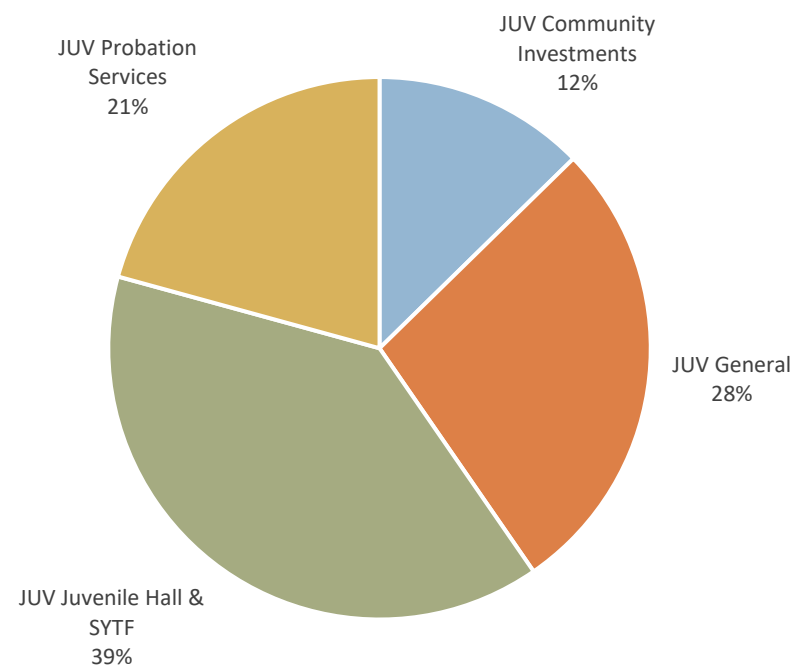
JUV Juvenile Probation

	2022 -2023 Adopted Budget	2023-2024 Base Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Changes from 2023-2024 Base	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	Changes from 2023-2024
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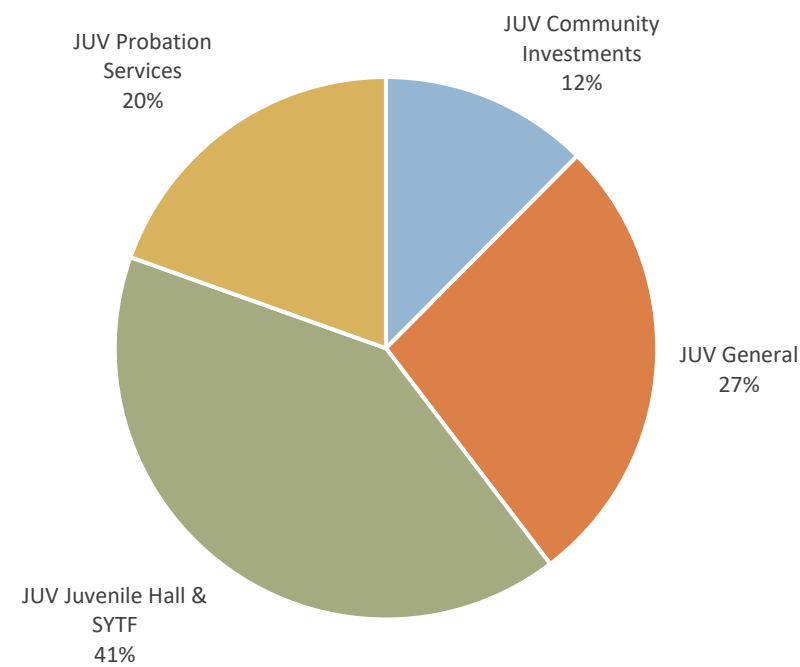
Uses - By Division Description

JUV Community Investments	0	0	5,835,081	5,835,081	5,557,093	(277,988)
JUV General	21,439,783	19,116,247	12,755,022	(6,361,225)	12,130,216	(624,806)
JUV Juvenile Hall & SYTF	18,083,548	18,565,354	17,898,053	(667,301)	18,209,982	311,929
JUV Probation Services	13,011,695	10,264,749	9,547,692	(717,057)	8,723,274	(824,418)
Uses by Division Total	52,535,026	47,946,350	46,035,848	(1,910,502)	44,620,565	(1,415,283)

Juvenile Probation Budget Uses by Division, FY 23-24
All Funds: \$46,035,848
General Fund: \$30,621,632 (67% of total)



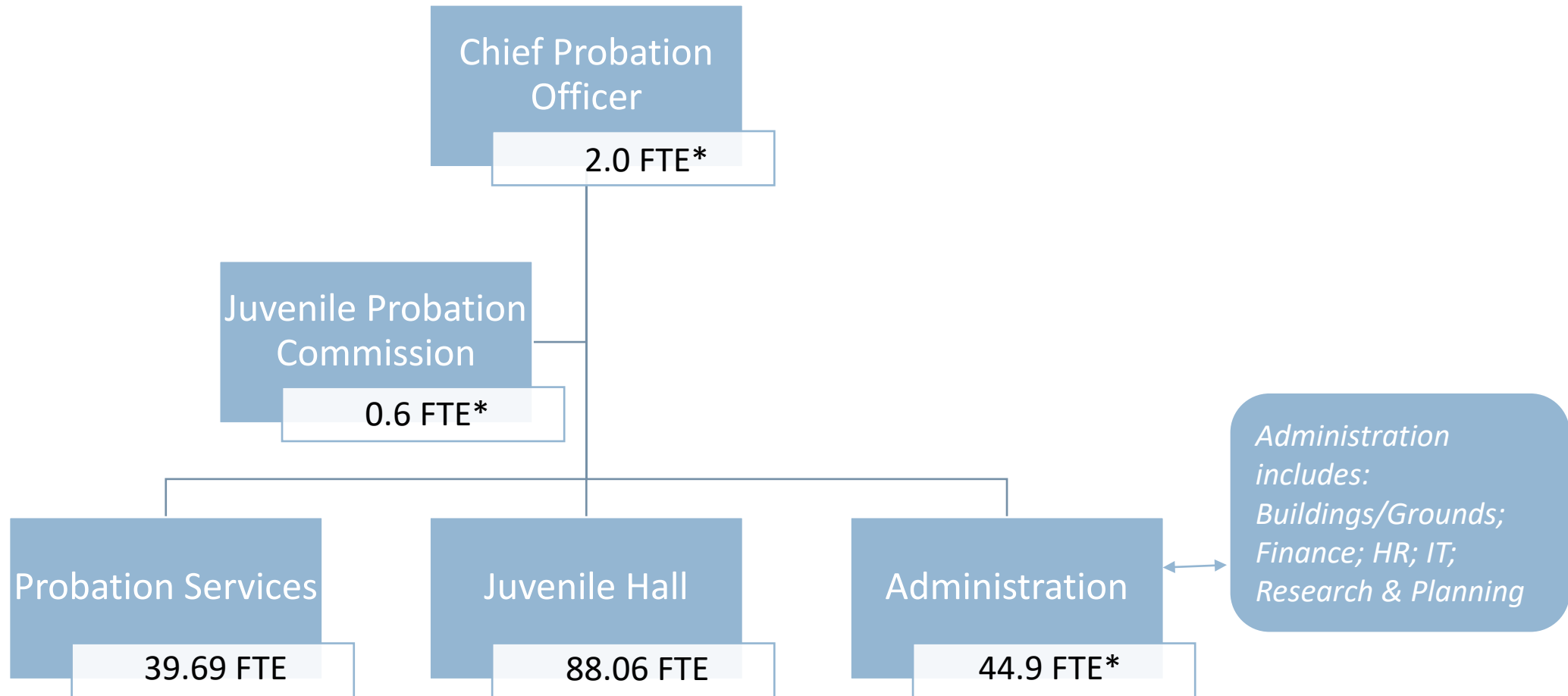
Juvenile Probation Budget Uses by Division, FY 24-25
All Funds: \$44,620,565
General Fund: \$31,098,423 (70% of total)



JPD Departmental Budget Plan

- Reduce \$1.4M in General Fund operating expenditures
 - Move \$800K in critical personnel to appropriate Special Revenue sources
 - Cut \$600K in non-personnel expenditures
- Maintain vacancies for required attrition
 - Identified positions include cook, transcriber, social worker
- New Community Investments Division
 - \$5.8M investment in community-based services, aligned with JPD/Commission/City goals, vision, and priorities

Proposed Juvenile Probation Department Organization Chart FY 23-24 & FY 24-25



* FTEs in Chief Probation Officer office, Juvenile Probation Commission and Administration are budgeted in the Administration division. Commissioners' 0.10 translate into legislated stipends.

Community Investments: \$9.1M (FY 22-23) & \$5.8M (FY 23-24) & \$5.6M (FY 24-25)

Community Based Organizations funded by JPD through DCYF*

Behavior Change and Positive Youth Development

- Border Youth Tennis Exchange
- Sharp Circle, Inc.
- Success Stories

Case Management/ Referral

- Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC)
- Instituto Familiar de la Raza
- Success Centers
- Westside Community Services

Educational Support

- Five Keys Schools and Programs
- Young Community Developers (YCD)

Life Coaches

- Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)
- Success Centers
- Us4Us (w/ Renaissance for Parents)

Life Skills

- Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)
- City of Dreams
- Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP)
- Sunset Youth Services
- Young Community Developers (YCD)

Justice Services

- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ)
- Hunters Point Family
- Mission Neighborhood Centers
- The Art of Yoga
- Niroga Institute
- Young Women's Freedom Center

Out of Home Placement/ Alternatives to Juvenile Hall

- Alternative Family Services (AFS)
- Catholic Charities—San Francisco Boys' Home

Restorative Justice

- Community Works West—Make it Right
- Insight Prison Project—Victim Offender Education Group (w/ Five Keys Schools and Programs)

Vocational Support

- Success Centers
- Sunset Youth Services

Whole Family Support

- City Youth Now
- San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project
- Young Community Developers (YCD)

JPD & DCYF have awarded nearly \$1.9M in grants just since August 2022.

**Excludes Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) investments*

Questions and Discussion



For questions or comments contact Verónica Martínez at
veronica.martinez@sfgov.org or 415-680-8451

Budget Presentation

City and County of San Francisco

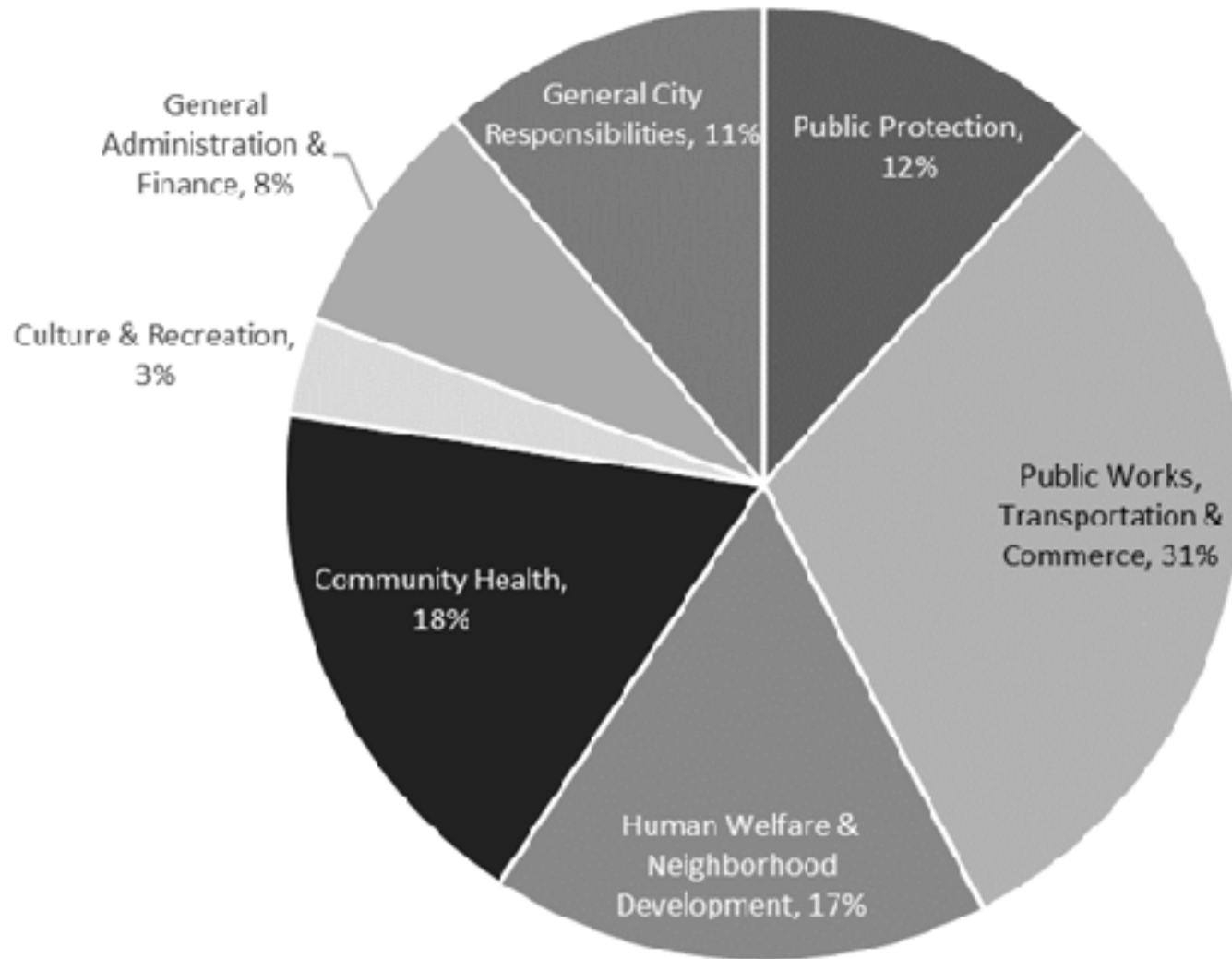
Youth Commission

February 21, 2023

Frances Hsieh

Legislative Aide, Supervisor Connie Chan

Total Budget by Major Service Area FY 2022-23

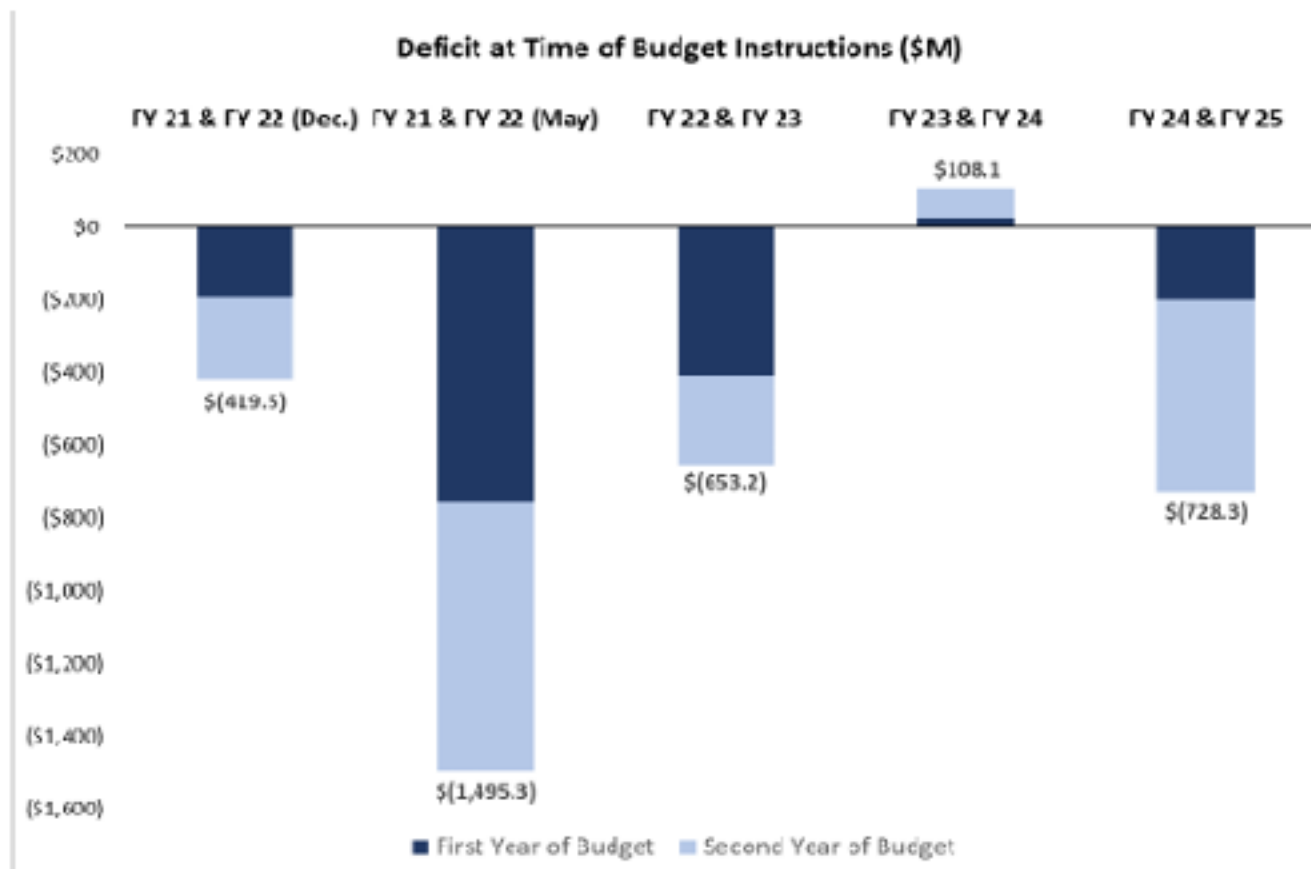


- San Francisco's budget for FY 2022-23 is **\$14.0 billion**
- **\$7.2 billion** is comprised of enterprise department budgets (Including: Port, Municipal Transportation Agency, Airport, Public Utilities Commission)
- **\$6.8 billion** is General Fund (funds public services such as health, police and fire and public works)



Overview: Fiscal Outlook

Financial forecast projects a \$728 million **deficit** over the upcoming two budget years





Five Year Report – Financial Forecast

	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28
<i>SOURCES Increase / (Decrease)</i>	(29.2)	(24.7)	49.9	105.4	206.2
Uses					
Baselines	(49.8)	(96.3)	(140.9)	(177.1)	(209.9)
Salaries & Benefits	(55.0)	(169.6)	(257.7)	(364.2)	(490.7)
Citywide Operating Budget Costs	(78.5)	(199.5)	(312.8)	(409.6)	(514.9)
Departmental Costs	11.7	(37.3)	(84.0)	(146.1)	(214.9)
<i>USES (Increase) / Decrease</i>	(171.6)	(502.8)	(795.4)	(1,097.0)	(1,430.4)
Projected Annual Surplus / (Shortfall)	(200.8)	(527.5)	(745.6)	(991.7)	(1,224.1)
Two Year Deficit	(728.3)				

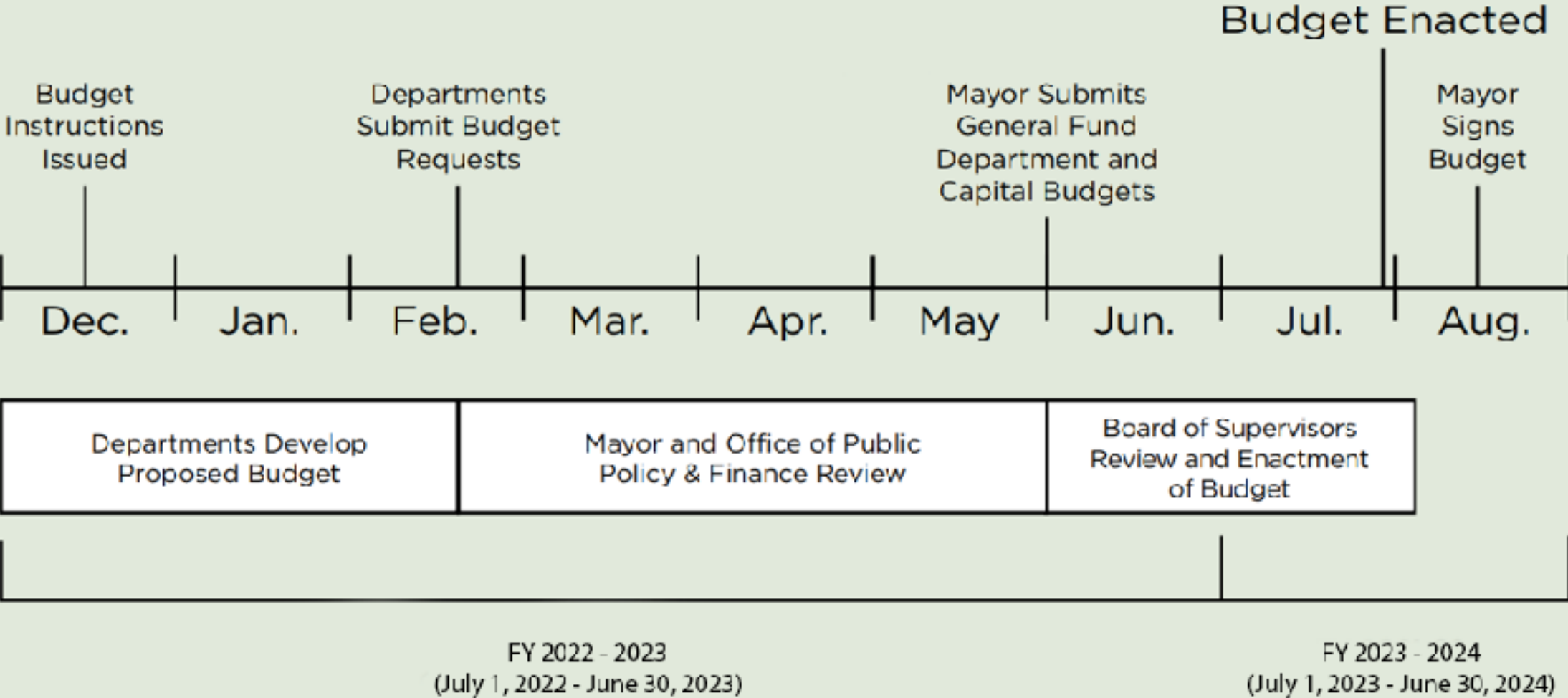


Five Year Report – Revenue Detail

Selected General Fund Taxes (\$m)

	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
March 2022 Forecast / Budget	4,366.3	4,575.2	4,753.9
(-) Property tax	(69.9)	(190.8)	(316.4)
(-) Transfer tax	(178.7)	(135.0)	(91.2)
(-) Business tax	(78.5)	(100.8)	(91.2)
(+) Sales & Hotel tax	53.3	72.2	74.1
Total	(273.8)	(354.4)	(424.7)
Fall 2022 5 Yr Forecast	4,092.6	4,220.8	4,329.2

Budget Timeline



Calendar

December 15	Mayor's Budget Outlook & Instructions issued
December 19	Budget system opens to departments
Early January	Five Year Report published
January 20	Capital and COIT budget requests due
Early February	Controller's 6-Month Report
February 21	Budget submissions due
May	Controller's 9-Month Report Governors May Revise
June 1	Mayor proposes a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors
June	Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings
July	Budget considered by the Board of Supervisors



Mayoral Policy Priorities

- **Recovery** of the local economy with focus on downtown and economic core
- **Improving** public safety and street conditions
- Reducing **homelessness** and transforming **mental health** service delivery
- **Accountability & equity** in services and spending

Budget Instructions to Departments

Required General Fund reductions –

5% in FY 23-24 and 8% in FY 24-25

- **Prioritize filling or reclassifying vacancies** for core departmental functions and Mayoral priorities
- **Propose** remaining vacancies for budget savings
- **Maintain Mayoral initiatives** and recommend ways to fund more efficiently
- **Prepare** for outlook to worsen

BOS Timeline - Draft

January 25, 2023

Five Year Financial Plan Update
Mayor's Budget Instructions

March 1, 2023

Six-Month Budget Status Report
Controller's Annual Performance Report

March 8, 2023

BOS Board Process Motion

March 22, 2023 (4:00 pm Special Order)

Youth Commission Budget Priorities

April 12, 2023

Five Year Financial Plan March Update

May 24, 2023

Nine-Month Budget Status Report

June 1, 2023

Mayor's Proposed Budget Issued

June 9, 2023 (Special)

Mayor's Interim FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25
Appropriation and Salary Ordinances

June 14-23, 2023

Departmental Hearings

June 26, 2023

Public Comment Day

BOS Priorities

Board Process Motion – Introduction March 1, 2023

Top issues:

- **Public Safety**
- **Housing/Affordable Housing**
- **Behavioral Health**
- **Homelessness**
- **Clean Streets**
- **Small Business Support/Jobs/Economy**
- **Children/Seniors/Education**

Framework

- **Government efficiency in providing services**
- **Equity in Services/Opportunities for communities of color/underrepresented**
- **Responsible Budgeting/Guarding against corruption**



SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

HSA/BFS FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25 Budgets

Human Services Agency

Department of Benefits and Family Support Presentation
to San Francisco Youth Commission

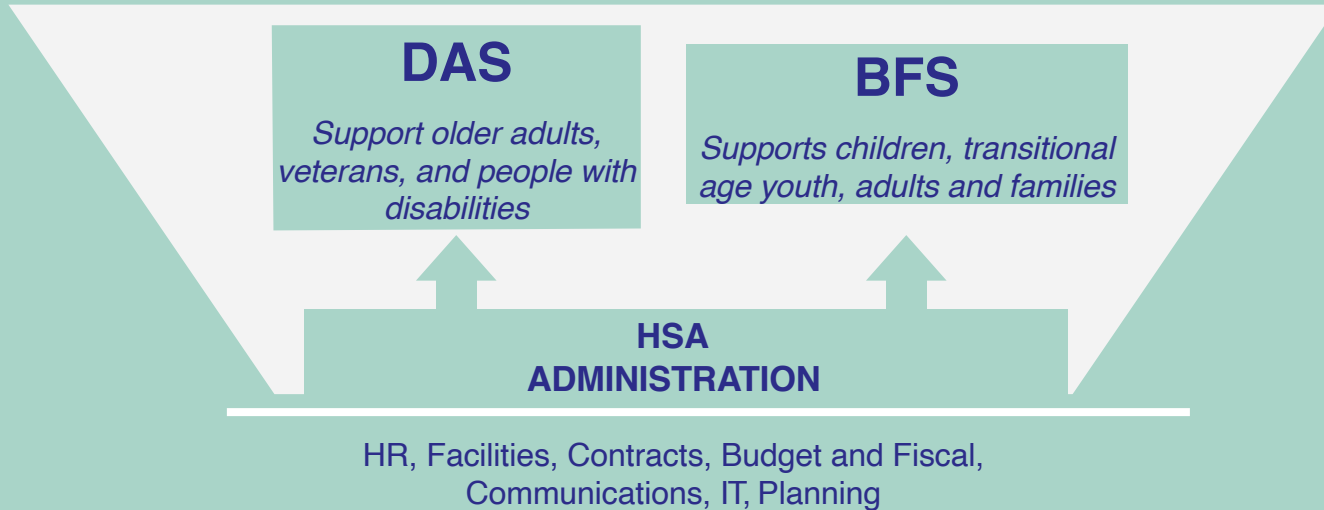
February 21, 2023



HSA Overview

HSA is comprised of two City Departments with one administrative foundation:

- Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)
- Department of Benefits and Family Supports (BFS)



Budget Process

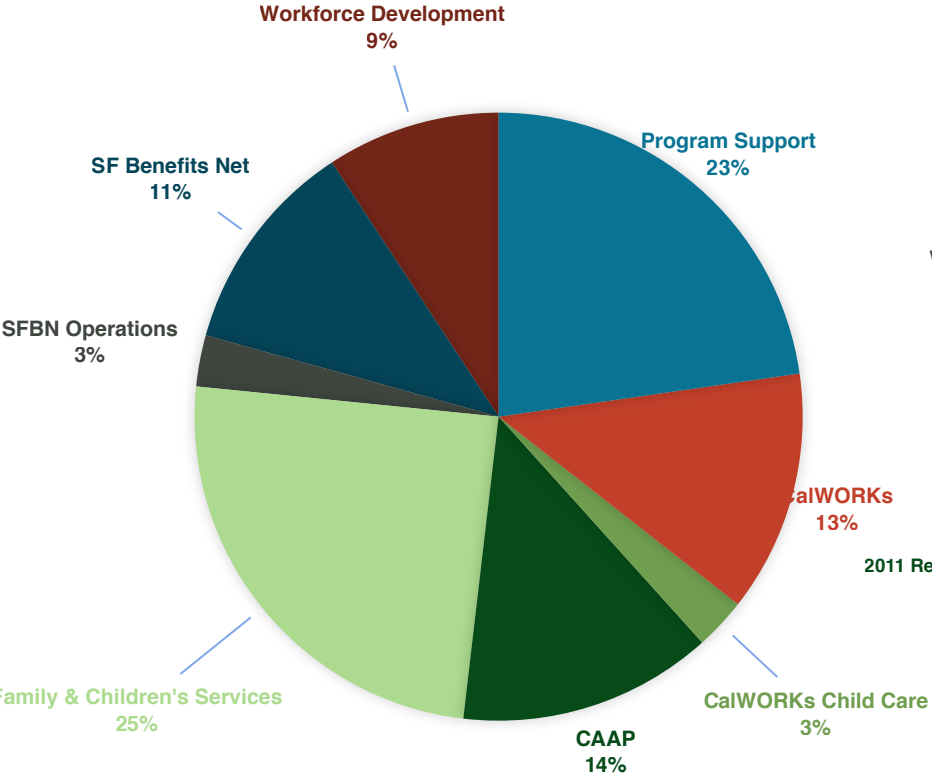
Mayor's Budget

- Due to projected Citywide budget deficit, departments asked to reduce *discretionary* General Fund (GF) in FYs 2023-24 / 2024-25
 - 5% (\$2M) in FY 2023-24, and 8% (\$3.2M) in FY 2024-25
 - Discretionary GF excludes funding for salary cost of living increases (COLAs), mandated service provisions and budget set asides

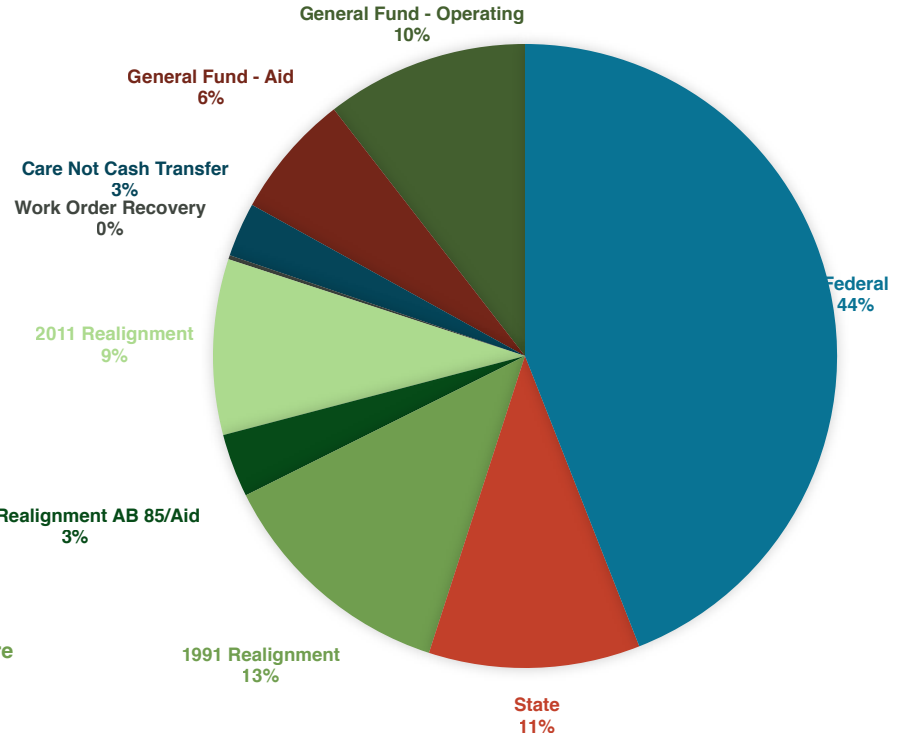
Agency Budget

- Use additional revenues to solidify core functions
- Repurpose funds and positions to meet emerging needs and improved services
- No cuts to ongoing agency programs or positions

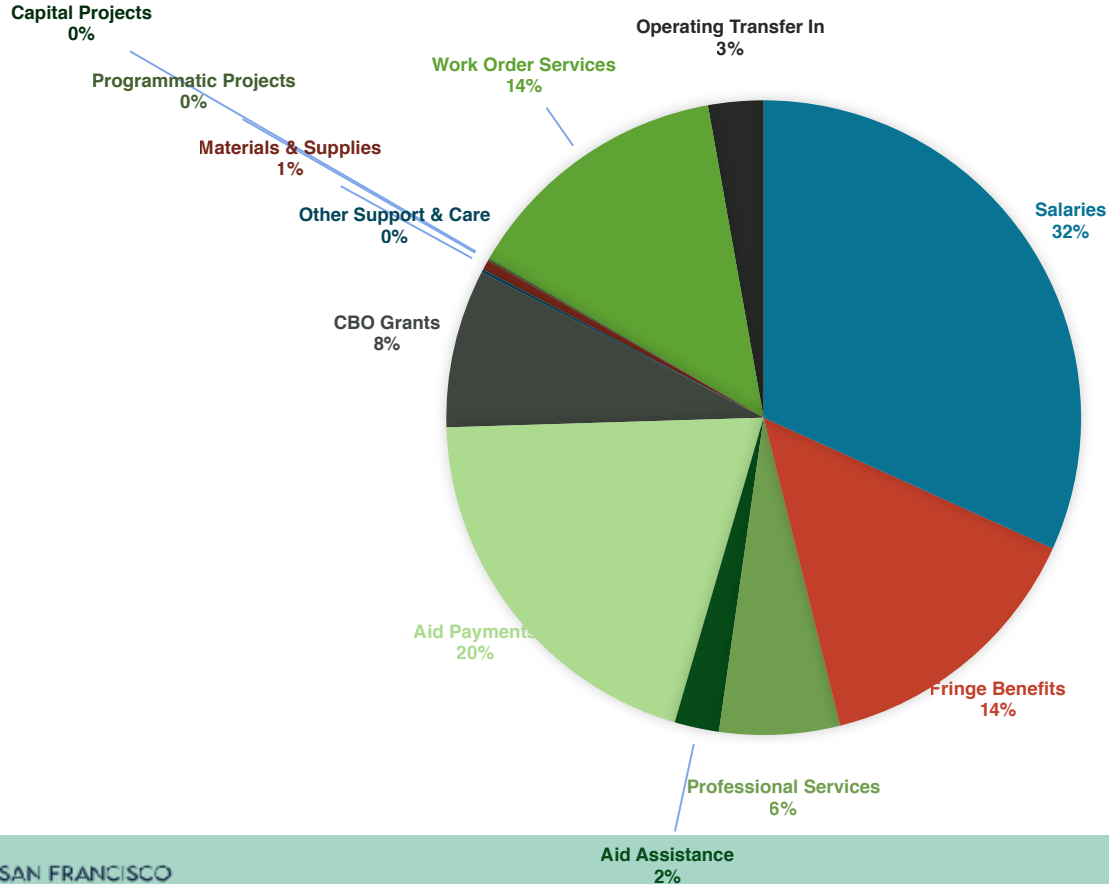
HSA/BFS FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget by Program
\$670.5M



HSA/BFS FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget by Source
\$670.5M



HSA/BFS FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget by Category \$670.5M



BFS Programs

Family and Children's Services Division (FCS)

- **Guaranteed Income Pilot**

- FCS awarded grant funding from State Department of Social Services and private donors to be programmed during FY2023-24 through FY2024-25 (\$4.5M).
- Will provide unconditional cash payments (\$1,200 per month) to 150 former foster youth
- Purpose of funding is to disrupt poverty, advance equity, and support the basic needs of at-risk youth.

- **Housing Services for Transitional Aged Youth**

- Reflects programming of California Department of Housing and Community Development grant award (\$2M) for subsidized housing and case management for emancipating and former foster youth.
- Provides housing stability to young adults 21-25 years of age.

BFS Programs

Economic Support & Self Sufficiency Division

- **Employment Services for Youth**

- Student Work Experience Program (SWEP)
 - Program includes recruitment, enrollment, pre-employment training, worksite placement, and subsidized employment (approximately \$535,000)
 - Serves up to 120 youth on CalWORKs cases and 20 youth in the Foster Care system for 8 weeks, with subsidized employment for 20 hours a week.
- Youth Employment Services (YES)
 - Program provides paid job readiness training, temporary employment opportunities, and educational attainment support (approximately \$900,000)
 - Serves up to 140 Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)

BFS Initiatives

Economic Support & Self Sufficiency Division (continued)

- **Mobile Eligibility Pilot** - Mobile office van for roving CalFresh, Medi-Cal and other benefits enrollment
 - Located at food support events such as food pantry sites
 - Perform benefits enrollment, and issue EBT cards on-site
 - Prioritize reaching immigrants and communities of color
- **Diaper Bank**
 - Permanent expansion of Diaper Bank services to Medi-Cal families
 - Also serves CalWORKs and CalFresh families (original target population)

HSA/BFS FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25 Budget Timeline

- Dec 16 Mayor's Budget Instructions Released
- Jan 26 HSA/BFS Commission – First Meeting
- Feb 15 HSA/BFS Commission – Second Meeting
- Feb 21 Agency Proposed Budget due to Mayor
- June 1 Mayor submits budget to Board of Supervisors
- June Board of Supervisors Budget Committee Hearings
- July Budget Considered at Board of Supervisors



EXPAND ACCESS TO YOUTH-CENTERED RECREATIONAL SPACES

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for the permanency and expansion of the Slow Streets program, increased access to transit services to car-Free JFK in Golden Gate Park, the study of making other streets car-free, the expansion and invest in parks all throughout the city, the funding for public transportation to Camp Mather and the Marin Headlands, and funding and resources for The Mix at SFPL.

BACKGROUND:

The Youth Commission is driven to ensure that all youth in San Francisco have access to recreational spaces and are receiving the full benefits of the city's slow streets, car-free spaces, public parks, and public resources. According to the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Rankings which compare the quality of 100 U.S. Cities' parks based on 5 categories, San Francisco's parks rank 7th in quality overall but rank 31st in equity score, highlighting the need for equitable access to open spaces and parks all throughout the city.¹ 34.5% of San Francisco households do not own a car and lower income, Black/African American, Native American, Pacific Islander/Filipino, age 18-29, and age 65+ households were all significantly more likely to not have access to a vehicle than the 34.5% average.² This furthers our point on the need for investment in current parks in every neighborhood in the city, as well as the need for public robust transportation to parks across the city.

Slow Streets

In 2021, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2021-AL-14³ urging officials to maintain and expand San Francisco's Slow Streets program near [schools](#). In 2022, the Youth Commission passed [RESOLUTION NO. 2223-AL-03](#) urging officials to approve a citywide network of permanent Slow Streets. In December 2022, the SFMTA Board approved the permanent Slow Streets [program](#). The Youth Commission recognizes the need for funding and resources in order to maintain the permanency of the newly approved program.

Car-Free Spaces

The Youth Commission recognizes the success of Car-Free JFK and believes in investing in transit lines that provide access to the park, as well as considering making other streets in the city car-free. In 2021, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION No. 2021-AL-12⁴ advocating for an equitable plan to support the long-term closure of John F. Kennedy (JFK) Drive and the

¹ <https://parkserve.tpl.org/customranking/?PS0667000>

²

https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2021/02/survey_findings_demo_graphics.pdf

³

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-14_Resolution%20Supporting%20Slow%20Streets.pdf

⁴

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-12_Resolution%20Closure%20of%20JFK%20and%20GH%20to%20Cars.pdf

Upper Great Highway to cars making JFK Drive permanently car-free. In the November 2022 Election, Proposition J, which permanently kept JFK car-free passed with 63% of voters approving the proposition. Making JFK Drive car-free was a major step toward increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety in San Francisco, especially as JFK Drive was on the City's High Injury Network.⁵ This also created recreational opportunities for everyone, including youth, and there have been 36% more daily park trips of walking, biking, rolling, and strolling on JFK Drive since before the closure.⁶

The closure of JFK Drive to cars has resulted in a reduction in parking, thus it is critical to make Muni service to the park, such as the 44 line, more efficient, robust, and reliable. In 2022, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION No. 2223-AL-09 where we highlighted concerns about the Muni 44 O'Shaughnessy line. The line provides public transit access to Golden Gate Park from the Bayview and Excelsior districts which have previously highlighted concerns about accessing Golden Gate Park since JFK has become car-free. It is heavily impacted by private vehicle traffic congestion and illegal parking near and in Golden Gate Park which causes increased travel times and contributes to declines in service reliability including bus bunching and service gaps (at times as many as 4 buses have bunched within a 2 block segment of the route).⁷ The Youth Commission recognizes the importance of the recreational and safe transportation opportunities that Car-Free JFK provides for people, especially youth. The Youth Commission believes in investing in and improving the 44 line in order to create more opportunities for Southeast San Francisco communities to access JFK Drive and other Golden Gate Park attractions. Seeing the success of car-free JFK, the Youth Commission recognizes the importance of and is curious about the potentiality of creating more car-free spaces throughout San Francisco.

Public Parks

The Youth Commission believes in expanding access to and improving other public parks in the city. Golden Gate Park has received significant political and media attention in part due to the recent Ferris Wheel and JFK Promenade debates, sees significantly more visitors, and receives more investment compared to other city parks. Other city parks such as John McLaren Park suffer from many issues leading them to “underperform as a citywide asset. A combination of deferred maintenance, decades of incomplete design ideas, and an inconsistent boundary with its adjacent neighborhoods, have created a park without a cohesive identity, sense of place or even a clear set of park entrances”⁸ The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has identified that many San Franciscans are unfamiliar with McLaren park and it is perceived by some as unkempt and dangerous but believes that through investing in and promoting the park's unique features, it can better serve its existing visitors and invite new users to explore it.⁹

Marin Headlands and Camp Mather Access

⁵ <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/golden-gate-park-traffic-safety-project>

⁶ <https://sfrecpark.org/1538/JFK-Promenade>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/thecliffbar/status/1543737173995708417?s=20&t=RbKlh9bUbfKLxPQM9DXiXQ>, <https://twitter.com/HaydenM16/status/1609681913060683777?s=20&t=RbKlh9bUbfKLxPQM9DXiXQ>

⁸ <https://sfrecpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/7224/Vision-Plan-Report-PDF> (pg. 10)

⁹ <https://sfrecpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/7224/Vision-Plan-Report-PDF> (pg. 18)

According to an SFMTA survey, more than 1 in 3 households in San Francisco do not own a car.¹⁰ Low Income and BIPOC households were even less likely to own a car. Car free access to parks is especially critical as the majority of youth can't or choose not to drive but still deserve to have mobility independence.

Prior to the COVID-19 related Muni service cuts on April 7th, 2020, Muni operated the 76X Marin Headlands Express which provided weekend and holiday service every 60-90 minutes from Downtown San Francisco to the Marin Headlands, the only public transit connection from San Francisco to the Marin Headlands, and served more than 40,000 riders per year in 2018 and 2019. According to Darren Brown, a transportation planner for the GGNRA, "The 76-Marin Headlands is the only transit line that takes passengers directly to different points of the park." The suspension of this critical Muni route has eliminated access for 1/3 of San Francisco households to one of the country's most visited national parks.

In 2003, a Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled "Sharing Camp Mather, San Francisco's Secret Jewel, With All San Franciscans" which examined inequities in access to Camp Mather such as limited publicity, a complex lottery based-application process, and a high rate of returning campers and provided recommendations to increase access including providing transportation from San Francisco to Camp Mather to campers who qualify for the low income campership program. The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department currently provides transportation during Camp Mather's Senior Session but not during the regular family weeks. This leaves families without access to a car unable to enjoy this extraordinary city resource.

Public Spaces

The Youth Commission believes in expanding and improving public youth-centered spaces. The Mix at SFPL has historically provided youth with unique opportunities by providing multiple ways for youth to engage within the program space. The MIX is different from most library programs as it provides hands-on experience with activities such as sewing, music recording and production, 3D printing, and computer access rather than books. The space promotes youth leadership in addition to giving access to tools, technology, and people who support learning, self-expression, creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. All services provided by The Mix are free and accessible to all youth of all demographics. The Mix's hours are currently SUN: 12:00 pm-6:00 pm, MON: 1:00 pm-6:00 pm, TUE: 1:00 pm-8:00 pm, WED: 1:00 pm-8:00 pm, THU: 1:00 pm-8:00 pm, FRI: 1:00 pm-6:00 pm, and SAT: 12:00 pm-6:00 pm. All hours are currently only available after either 1 or 12 pm, restricting accessibility for all youth, especially during the summer when young people are not in school. The Youth Commission recognizes the importance of the Mix to provide opportunities for youth, who may not have ready access to such materials. Therefore, we believe extending the Mix's open hours increases accessibility and would create a space for increased youth participation.

10

https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2021/02/survey_findings_demographics.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

1. Provide funding and support for the SFMTA to fully implement and maintain permanent slow streets program infrastructure.
2. Urge and provide funding to city agencies to conduct outreach and complete a study on the potentiality of making other streets in San Francisco car-free.
3. Direct the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to develop a plan to reduce delays for public transit on 9th Avenue from Judah Street to MLK Drive and MLK Drive from 9th Avenue to Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive including increased parking enforcement, parking and loading changes, turn restrictions, and restricting private vehicle access to 9th Avenue from Judah Street to Lincoln Way
4. Support and allocate funding for San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to provide bus transportation from San Francisco to Camp Mather for at least 25% of family summer sessions at Camp Mather with bus transportation space prioritized for families receiving camperships
5. Support and allocate funding for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to restore Muni route 76X service to provide public transit access to the Marin Headlands and to urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to seek potential grant funding from the Golden Gate National Recreation Area GGNRA or other sources to support the operation of the service
6. Support and fund efforts of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to improve and promote the use of both large parks such as John McLaren Park and local parks and playgrounds, especially those in equity zones
7. Invest funding and resources to expand the Mix at San Francisco Public Library's working hours in order to create more opportunities for youth to connect and further their skills and hobbies.

ADDRESS VISION ZERO

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for the reconvening of the Vision Zero Task Force, the reintroduction of a pilot program for automated speed enforcement, the follow through and expedition of SFMTA safety and quick-build projects, especially near schools, funding for Vision Zero projects, and consistent and broad enforcement from SFPD on the Focus on the Five on the High Injury Network.

BACKGROUND:

San Francisco, and California as a whole, are both incredibly dangerous for pedestrians. California ranked 9th for the most pedestrian deaths in the United States.¹¹ Additionally, San Francisco was ranked as the county with the 6th most dangerous traffic around schools in the country, according to an analysis by Zendrive.¹² Drop-offs and pickups at schools add up to 80,000 miles of driving per day on our streets.¹³ About 84 percent of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)'s 2015/2016 traffic calming applications and community requests are located within a quarter mile of a school.¹⁴ This large amount of traffic around schools increases safety threats for kids and families.¹⁵ 42% of San Francisco elementary school students live within walking distance of school, yet only 26% of students walk, portraying the walkability of our city's streets.¹⁶

In 2014, San Francisco adopted a Vision Zero policy that committed the city to eliminate all traffic deaths on city streets by 2024 through engineering safer streets, implementing education about traffic safety, enforcing traffic laws, and advocating for the legalization of new tools including automated speed enforcement.¹⁷

The Youth Commission supported the Vision Zero campaign in 2014 in MOTION NO. 1415-AL-01¹⁸, where we also stated that we wanted to become a part of the Vision Zero Coalition in order to offer a youth voice in our motion. After Mayor Ed Lee made the Vision Zero pledge in 2015, the San Francisco Vision Zero task force met quarterly. However, the task force started meeting infrequently after Lee's passing in 2018.¹⁹

Four years later, there was still little progress on Vision Zero. In 2018, the Youth Commission

¹¹ Peters, LaMonica. "California Ranks 9th for Pedestrian Deaths in the US." KTVU FOX 2, July 13, 2022. Accessed January 26, 2023. <https://www.ktvu.com/news/california-ranks-9th-for-pedestrian-deaths-in-the-us>.

¹² Walk SF. (2021, July 8). Safe Routes to School. Walk San Francisco. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://walksf.org/our-work/safe-routes-for-all/safe-routes-to-schools/>.

¹³ SFCTA. "Child Transportation Study." Accessed January 26, 2023. <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/child-transportation-study>.

¹⁴ SFMTA School Safety Programs. (2021, October 28). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/sfmta-school-safety-programs>.

¹⁵ Walk SF, 2021.

¹⁶ Walk SF, 2021.

¹⁷

<https://www.visionzerosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Vision-Zero-Action-Strategy-FINAL-Draft-3.14.2017.pdf>

¹⁸

<https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/FileCenter/Documents/50971-1415-AL-01%20Vision%20Zero.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/traffic-death-new-york-17670657.php>

motioned to support BOS File No. 180401²⁰, a hearing on senior pedestrian injuries and fatalities and targeted implementation of Vision Zero improvements with the recommendation that youth be included in the implementation of Vision Zero improvements.²¹

In 2022, the task force only met once. However, in New York City, their Vision Zero Task Force has met every two weeks since 2014. The lack of progress on Vision Zero is evident, as traffic deaths have risen almost every year since 2018, and San Francisco ended 2022 with 32 deaths, tied with the decade high in 2016.²² In February 2022, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. [----] where we outlined the following issues.

In our 2022 resolution, the Youth Commission found that speed is the largest contributing factor to traffic fatalities, and even minor reductions in speed can significantly improve traffic incident outcomes.²³ The SFMTA stated that “Between 2005-2014, 31% of all traffic fatalities nation-wide cited speed as a factor.”²⁴

The Youth Commission recognizes that automated speed enforcement is an effective measure to reduce speeding-related crashes, fatalities, and injuries. Jurisdictions that have implemented automated speed enforcement programs have seen reductions in crashes, fatalities, and speeding. For example, in zones where cameras were installed in New York City, total crashes declined by 15%, total injuries by 17%, fatalities by 55%, and speeding by 70%.²⁵ In a 2013 survey of over 3,700 San Franciscans, respondents ranked automated enforcement as one of the top three priorities that the City should implement in order to improve pedestrian safety in San Francisco.²⁶ However, only 14 states use automated speed enforcement due to laws prohibiting or restricting them.²⁷ In 2017, Assemblymember David Chiu collaborated with the late Mayor Ed Lee and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo on Assembly Bill 342, which would install automated speed enforcement throughout San Francisco and San Jose as a five-year pilot program. Unfortunately, it died in committee.²⁸

The Youth Commission found that the SFMTA too often waters down its quick-build, safety, and traffic-calming projects. They modify and delete elements from their safety projects, and one

20

<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3482897&GUID=AE5D6D8C-F50F-4DD6-8FA0-29242F107E68&Options=ID|Text|Attachments|Search=180401>

²¹ “YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM.” SF GOV, May 2018. Accessed January 26, 2023.

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1718-RBM-09_0.pdf.

²² Cano, R. (2022, December 24). S.F. and New York each pledged to end traffic deaths. Why is N.Y. making more progress? San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/traffic-death-new-york-17670657.php>.

²³ Swan, R. (2019, May 20). Traffic fatalities soaring despite effort to make city streets safer. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-sets-sights-on-no-street-fatalities-but-13857436.php>.

²⁴ Speed Safety Cameras. (2022, July 5). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/speed-safety-cameras>.

²⁵ Speed Safety Cameras, 2022b.

²⁶ Vision Zero Coalition. (2015, February). WHERE SAN FRANCISCO STANDS IN ACHIEVING VISION ZERO | YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT. sfbike.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <http://sfbike.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Vision-Zero-Report-2014-web.pdf?org=451&lvl=100&ite=7046&lea=3362887&ctr=0&par=1>.

²⁷ “National Transportation Safety Board Safety Study.” *National Transportation Safety Board*, July 2015. Accessed January 26, 2023. <https://www.nts.gov/news/events/Documents/2017-DCA15SS002-BMG-Abstract.pdf>.

²⁸ Swan, R. (2019b, May 20). Traffic fatalities soaring despite effort to make city streets safer. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-sets-sights-on-no-street-fatalities-but-13857436.php>.

clear example of this is the 8th Avenue Neighborway Proposal.²⁹ The SFMTA launched the Vision Zero Quick-Build program with the goal of delivering fast, affordable, and adjustable street modifications such as daylighting, protected bike lanes, parking and loading changes, and have painted pedestrian safety zones on the High-Injury network, for the 13% of city streets that account for 75% of severe traffic injuries and deaths. However, since 2020, there have only been 29 completed Quick-Build projects, according to the City's latest Quick-Build project list.³⁰

The Youth Commission would also like to see the SFMTA make progress on Valencia Street and San Jose Avenue, two heavily utilized and dangerous corridors. Valencia Street is one of San Francisco's most used biking corridors³¹ and it is also a part of the High Injury Network. Drivers have parked in the currently unprotected bike lanes and injured cyclists for years.³² Mayor London Breed called on the SFMTA to build a protected bike lane on Valencia Street within four months from September 2018.³³ However, despite political calls to action, the SFMTA still has not yet delivered protected bike lanes on Valencia Street. San Jose Avenue, also a part of the City's High Injury Network, is "dense with kids and families."³⁴ In a 2007 document titled *San Jose Avenue Traffic Calming*, staff from the San Francisco Planning Department wrote that "vehicles continuing from the San Jose expressway enter the neighborhood at speeds often in excess of 50 mph."³⁵ The document called for "interventions including bulb-outs, larger Muni islands, rumble strips, and planted medians to slow cars down and highlight crosswalks". The SFMTA still not has addressed the concerns of citizens, even after 60 people and local businesses brought their concerns to the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, prompting the council to pass a resolution acknowledging the unsafe conditions on San Jose Avenue that impact access to the many nearby schools, parks, local businesses, and transit stops in fall of 2022.

The Youth Commission found that the SFMTA Residential Traffic Calming Program has a very complex application process. The program has specific windows to apply and applications that require gathering signatures of at least 20 neighbors and a neighborhood vote if the street is found to be eligible for traffic calming. This extensive process to apply for traffic calming creates barriers for working class people who lack the time or resources to navigate the process.³⁶ The Youth Commission researched Vision Zero's "Focus on the Five" (FOTF), which is the prioritization of enforcement on dangerous driving behaviors in each police district. The FOTF driving citations include: 1) Speeding, 2) Running stop signs, 3) Running red lights, 4) Violating pedestrian right-of-way, and 5) Failing to yield while turning.³⁷ As part of its Vision Zero

²⁹ SFMTA. (2017, October 18). SFMTA PROJECT TIMELINE. sfmta.com. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2017/10/october_8th_ave_boards_101817_final_compressed.pdf.

³⁰ SFMTA. (2022, December). Vision Zero Quick-Build Project Updates. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2023/01/2022-12_qb_project_updates_20230105.pdf.

³¹ Valencia Bikeway Improvements. (n.d.). SFCTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/valencia-bikeway-improvements>.

³² Swan, R. (2019a, March 7). Breed targets bureaucracy in effort to improve SF pedestrian safety. San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Breed-targets-bureaucracy-in-effort-to-improve-SF-13668483.php>.

³³ MAYOR LONDON BREED ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST SAFETY | Office of the Mayor. (2018, September 26). sfmayor.org. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sfmayor.org/article/mayor-london-breed-announces-new-measures-improve-pedestrian-and-bicyclist-safety>.

³⁴ Walk SF, 2021.

³⁵ Coale, 2023b.

³⁶ Residential Traffic Calming Program. (2022, November 29). SFMTA. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/walk/residential-traffic-calming-program>.

³⁷ San Francisco Police Traffic Enforcement. (n.d.). Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://transpomaps.org/san-francisco/ca/sfpd-traffic-enforcement/analysis>.

commitment, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) made a commitment in 2014 to increase the percentage of “Focus on the Five” to 50% of all traffic citations.³⁸ However, the Youth Commission looked into performance data published on a monthly basis by the Controller’s Office, and found that while a few individual police districts have had success in attaining this goal, other districts and the SFPD as a whole have struggled to meet it.³⁹ Analysis of SFPD citation data from January 2018 to May 2022 shows that FOTF citations have averaged around 35% of all citations written year over year, and the FOTF citations that are written on the High Injury Network are a tiny fraction of all citations written citywide.⁴⁰ According to data from the City and County of San Francisco’s City Performance Scorecards, SFPD does not focus on FOTF in Northern, Ingleside, Central, and Bayview districts as the percent of total traffic citations for FOTF is below 50%, despite these districts having substantive data demonstrating high numbers of drivers who violate the top five traffic violations that cause accidents and risk public safety.⁴¹

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

1. Urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and other participating agencies to reconvene the Vision Zero Task Force, hold regular meetings, and include a seat for a youth aged 12-23.
2. Urge state policymakers to reintroduce a state bill for a pilot program to allow for speed cameras in San Francisco.
3. Urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to expedite its quick-build projects for major street redesign, including implementing car-free zones, building extensive protected bike lane networks and creating transit only lane networks, regardless of the necessary tradeoffs, such as removing extensive parking removal and repurposing vehicle travel lanes.
4. Urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to especially prioritize traffic calming, safety initiatives, and slow streets in areas near schools.
5. Provide funding for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to implement and follow through on Vision Zero initiatives.
6. Urge the San Francisco Police Department to broaden the spatial scope of its enforcement activities which is supported by a wide body of research in the field of traffic policing and crash prevention.
7. Urge the San Francisco Police Department to modify its Focus on the Five strategy so that it is better suited to the unique environment of each police district and allows for an appropriately varied response to the problem of traffic collisions.
8. Urge the San Francisco Police Department to prioritize citing "Focus on the Five" violations on the High Injury Network.

³⁸ Percentage of Citations for Top Five Causes of Collisions | City Performance Scorecards. (n.d.). [sfgov.org](https://sfgov.org/scorecards/transportation/percentage-citations-top-five-causes-collisions). Retrieved January 23, 2023, from <https://sfgov.org/scorecards/transportation/percentage-citations-top-five-causes-collisions>.

³⁹ Lapka et al., 2017.

⁴⁰ San Francisco Police Traffic Enforcement, n.d.

⁴¹ Percentage of Citations for Top Five Causes of Collisions | City Performance Scorecards, n.d.

Make Transportation Services Accessible and Reliable for Youth

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for the resources and funding to restore 100% of SFMTA transit routes, and the expansion of the school tripper program.

Background:


Transit Route Restoration

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SFMTA suspended many routes. Now most local routes have been restored, with the exceptions of the E Embarcadero, 3 Jackson, 10 Townsend, 28R 19th Avenue Rapid, 47 Van Ness, and various rush hour commuter and express buses. Frequency and span of service reductions are also still in place on almost every line⁴². Most notably almost all lines that previously operated until midnight or 1 am have been reduced to end at 10 pm.

As part of the SFMTA Board-approved Muni 2022 Network project, the SFMTA committed to restoring the 10 Townsend and 28R 19th Avenue in January of 2022. However, these routes remain suspended as of February 2023. Additionally, despite announcing plans to develop a Service Expansion (110% service) plan with community outreach and engagement in fall 2022, no such outreach has commenced and there is still no plan for restoration of the E Embarcadero, 10 Townsend, and 47 Van Ness. The SFMTA attributes the delays to an ongoing transit operator shortage and frequently points to a looming fiscal cliff despite receiving over \$X billion in federal aid during the pandemic.

The 47 Van Ness served 12,000 daily riders, 65% of whom had household incomes less than \$75,000, with 1 in 5 riders under the age of 25.⁴³ It's important to note that the 47 previously served the Van Ness corridor alongside the 49 Van Ness Mission. The corridor has seen significant ridership growth and travel time savings since the opening of the Van Ness BRT project and the current 49 service is frequently over capacity, especially directly after school hours resulting in pass ups. The suspension of the 47 combined with the rerouting of the 27 Bryant has limited access to essential services in SoMa as there is no longer any Muni service on Bryant Street from 11th Street to 6th Street. This limits access to several grocery stores, the Hall of Justice, and the SFMTA towing impound lot.

The 28R 19th Avenue Rapid served 5,700 daily riders, 77% of whom had household incomes less than \$75k. More than 40% of riders were young people under the age of 25 and 60% of riders were non-white⁴⁴. The 28R was a crucial route for youth and students, as it provided a fast, frequent route connecting to schools including Lick-Wilmerding, San Francisco State University, Lowell, and Lincoln High Schools.

⁴²  Cuts to Night-Time Muni Service

⁴³

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YXDJNjOkM6KLMXiXeVr73bZyCunxE9qyF0_mNZFBQKQ/edit?usp=sharing

⁴⁴

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YXDJNjOkM6KLMXiXeVr73bZyCunxE9qyF0_mNZFBQKQ/edit?usp=sharing

In addition to route suspensions, overcrowded vehicles negatively impact thousands of student Muni riders every day. According to a survey by The Lowell, a student-run newspaper, 82% of Lowell students who take the 29 Inbound and 80% of students who take the 29 Outbound had been passed up meaning the bus was too full to pick up all waiting passengers.⁴⁵ This survey showed that nearly four of five students take Muni from school at least 1 day a week and SFUSD data shows that 59% of SFUSD 9th Graders use Muni to get to or from school on a given day.

The Youth Commission has tirelessly advocated for transit service restoration since 2021. In Resolutions NO. 2021-AL-16⁴⁶ and NO. 2021-AL-14⁴⁷, the Youth Commission called on the SFMTA to commit to and develop a plan to restore 100% of service hours and routes, and return transit to 100% of pre-pandemic service levels to alleviate crowding during school commute hours and enable students who rely on transit for their commutes to safely get to school when they return to in-person learning.

Access to Clipper Cards has been an additional challenge for Youth in San Francisco. Although the passage of Free Muni for All Youth in 2021 meant that Youth no longer need to own a Clipper card in order to ride on MUNI buses⁴⁸ Youth are still required to pay in order to ride on BART. Although Youth Clipper cards are still available for purchase, and they provide a 50% discount for all rides on BART, accessing them is very difficult. There are two main avenues to obtain a Youth Clipper card, both of which present a challenge. Clipper cards can be sent in the mail, but according to BART Director Janice Li, it can take up to eight weeks for the card to be delivered to its recipient. In addition, Clipper cards can be bought in-person, but only at four locations within the City.⁴⁹ This starkly contrasts Adult Clipper cards, which can be purchased at these four ‘staffed locations’ along with dozens of self-serve machines and Walgreens retail stores. Therefore, significant barriers remain that make it difficult for Youth to obtain Clipper cards and receive the discount they are entitled to have.

School Tripper Program

The SFMTA School Tripper Program currently consists of 20 special bus trips that run along a regular Muni route but originate as an empty bus at a school along the route to reduce crowding and pass-ups throughout the line⁵⁰. The trips are mandated by the Federal Transportation Administration to be open to the public, however, the buses primarily serve students from the schools they originated at. These 20 trips currently serve 15 schools.

⁴⁵ "Why Muni should give Lowell a special bus to curb overcrowding." The Lowell, <https://thelowell.org/98/multimedia/videos/watch-why-muni-should-give-lowell-a-special-bus-to-curb-overcrowding/>.

⁴⁶ "Resolution SFMTA Transit Service Restoration." San Francisco Youth Commission, https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-16_Resolution%20SFMTA%20Transit%20Service%20Restoration.pdf.

⁴⁷

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-14_Resolution%20Supporting%20Slow%20Streets.pdf

⁴⁸ "Free Muni for All Youth (18 Years and Younger)", SFMTA <https://www.sfmta.com/fares/free-muni-all-youth-18-years-and-younger>

⁴⁹ "Sales and Service Locations," Clipper <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/locations>

⁵⁰ <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/muni/routes-stops/muni-routes-serving-city-schools>

The SFMTA has stated that they prioritize schools that experience high levels of pass-ups and crowding on surrounding routes and schools that are not already on high frequency corridors. SFMTA Director of Transit, Julie Kirshbaum stated that, “What is useful about the school trip being such a narrow window is we can add a lot of service without a lot of expense.”⁵¹

The Youth Commission found it evident that this does not actually seem to be the case. Balboa High School has an enrollment of 1,260 students and is located near the terminus of some of Muni’s most frequent lines including the J, K, M, 8, and 49, and still receives 2 school trippers. Meanwhile, Lowell High School, San Francisco’s largest public high school, has an enrollment of 2,668 students and the only lines serving the school with a frequency of less than 20 minutes is the 29 Sunset with the 28 19th Avenue and M Ocean View half a mile away. Lowell does not receive any school trippers, despite requests from the Lowell administration and students dating back to at least 2017.⁵² Lowell only serves as one of the more well-documented problems with the school tripper program and Muni service to schools in general. The Youth Commission has concerns regarding the fairness and efficacy behind the current distribution of the SFMTA School Tripper services.

Recommendations:

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

1. Provide funding to support 100% Muni service restoration and to urge the SFMTA to prioritize the restoration of all routes including the 28R, and 47, as well as extending the span of service from 10 pm to at least midnight on routes that previously operated until or after midnight.
2. Provide additional funding for Muni service operations including potential recruitment and retention bonuses and wage increases for operations critical employees that will support the SFMTA in restoring transit service.
3. Urge the SFMTA to expand the school tripper program with clear metrics such as student body size, proximity to existing high frequency and high capacity transit service, and route overcrowding and pass-ups.

⁵¹ "Lowell Students Call for Increased Bus Service to Sunset District High School." San Francisco Examiner, https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/the-city/lowell-students-call-for-increased-bus-service-to-sunset-district-high-school/article_b22bf49a-d4ec-58c6-bbba-0d1513aa9201.html.

⁵² Why Muni should give Lowell a special bus to curb overcrowding." The Lowell, <https://thelowell.org/98/multimedia/videos/watch-why-muni-should-give-lowell-a-special-bus-to-curb-overcrowding/>.

Support Youth and Transitional-Aged Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The San Francisco Youth Commission Urges the City and County of San Francisco to further increase its efforts to address the homeless crisis in San Francisco, particularly among youth under the age of 25, by exploring the opening of an additional Navigation Center solely focused on serving TAY, lessening the burden placed on caseworkers at Navigation Centers by hiring additional staff, and expanding upon existing services available at Navigation Centers across San Francisco.

Background

As of 2023, the homelessness crisis continues to be one of San Francisco's most pressing issues. However, this crisis did not develop overnight. It has steadily worsened, resulting in the unfavorable reality in front of us today. In 1985, a period in which homelessness and displacement were on the rise due to the recent recession, the Reagan Administration proposed large cutbacks on public and supportive housing programs such as Section 8.⁵³ As a result, homelessness and housing crises were left in the hands of local jurisdictions. In response, then San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein implemented a program within the city to provide temporary housing and food to those seeking shelter. However, her administration did not adequately recognize the severity and longevity of homelessness, thinking it would be resolved once the recession ended. As a result, they did not address it with the urgency necessary to prevent potential exacerbation⁵⁴ and this inaction contributed to a deterioration of the crisis.

In the decades since the retrenchment of Section 8 and Feinstein's ten-year term as Mayor of San Francisco, other Mayors have earnestly attempted to undertake the issue of homelessness during their time in office. In particular, Mayors Art Agnos, Gavin Newsom, and most recently London Breed, have all made addressing homelessness a major policy priority, but despite their efforts and progress, the lack of available housing and homelessness crisis have both persisted.

San Francisco's decades-long struggle with homelessness has intensified in recent years, with the number of individuals within the City experiencing homelessness increasing throughout the 2010s. In 2007, the homeless population in San Francisco was 5,703, and this number climbed to 9,784 by 2019.⁵⁵ Not only has the increase in homelessness affected those who are suffering on the streets and in shelters, but it has also affected the City as a whole. The presence of a larger homeless population in large areas of San Francisco has decreased foot traffic, causing an adverse impact on the economic livelihoods of both individuals living in these areas and local businesses⁵⁶. Therefore, the homeless crisis in San Francisco affects everyone residing within

⁵³US Department of Housing & Urban Development, Section 8 Program Background Information, accessed January 26, 2023, https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/rfp/s8bkinfo

⁵⁴ Matthew Green, "TIMELINE: The Frustrating Political History of Homelessness in San Francisco," KQED, June 26, 2017, <https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/22644/interactive-timeline-a-history-of-homelessness-in-san-francisco>.

⁵⁵ Kate Eby, "History of How Many People Are Homeless in the Bay Area," ABC7 San Francisco, August 13, 2019, <https://abc7news.com/homeless-homelessness-bay-area-number-of-people/5260657/>.

⁵⁶ Alan Greenblat, Governing, 'Can a City Thrive When it's Downtown is Empty?', 1/31/23, Accessed 2/9/23 <https://www.governing.com/community/can-a-city-thrive-when-its-downtown-is-empty>

the City both directly and indirectly, and the large number of individuals living in poor conditions on our streets has received national attention and marred the reputation of San Francisco.⁵⁷

In 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic hit San Francisco, and the homeless population of the City was uniquely affected as sheltering-in-place was impossible for those lacking shelter. Because of this danger, the City took immediate action to mitigate health concerns from the Pandemic on individuals experiencing homelessness. Beginning in March 2020, San Francisco launched the Alternative Shelter Program, which sought to provide emergency shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness.⁵⁸ In total, the program provided 9,093 people with a place to stay during the worst period of the Pandemic. Although this program was suspended in June 2021⁵⁹, it proved that San Francisco is capable of providing individuals experiencing homelessness with safety and dignity when it takes decisive action. The Youth Commission believes that San Francisco should act strongly like this in order to finally end the issue of homelessness.

Although the homeless crisis has affected all age groups, youth have been especially susceptible to experiencing homelessness in recent years. Recently, Applied Service Research conducted a point-in-time (PIT) survey to measure the scope of the homeless crisis, and, in particular, its effect on youth. It found that in 2022, 1,073 San Franciscans under the age of 25 were experiencing homelessness.⁶⁰ 902 individuals, or 84% of this group, were unsheltered, which is a far lower rate than the overall homeless population. Youth homelessness can be triggered by a variety of factors, with the most common being the loss of a job, an argument with a family member or friend, the use of alcohol and/or drugs, and mental health issues.⁶¹ When considering solutions, it is essential to understand that different causes of Youth homelessness require different solutions, necessitating a multifaceted strategy.

Furthermore, when measuring the scope and impact of the homeless crisis among Youth in San Francisco, it is clear that certain populations suffer disproportionately when compared to the population-at-large. Among the 1,073 Youth experiencing homelessness, 38% identified as

⁵⁷ Michelle Robertson, SF Gate, '*San Francisco Has a Major Image Problem*,' 11/1/21, Accessed 2/9/23 <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/san-francisco-major-image-problem-16575042.php>

⁵⁸ "Alternative Shelter Program," hsh.sfgov.org, accessed January 25, 2023, <https://hsh.sfgov.org/covid-19/alternative-shelter-program/>

⁵⁹ "Alternative Shelter Program," hsh.sfgov.org, accessed January 25, 2023, <https://hsh.sfgov.org/covid-19/alternative-shelter-program/>

⁶⁰ Applied Service Research, "San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report," accessed January 20, 2023, <https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

⁶¹ Applied Service Research, "San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report," accessed January 20, 2023, <https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

LGBTQ+⁶². Sadly, this is often caused by families disowning their children after they become aware of their child's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.⁶³

LGBTQ+ Youth, and Transgender/Non-binary Youth in particular, are uniquely affected by mental health crises, with a Trevor Project report finding that 44% of LGBTQ+ Youth and 54% Transgender and Non-binary Youth in California seriously consider suicide. Therefore, many of these Youth experiencing homelessness are in desperate need of mental health services.⁶⁴

In addition, 40% of Youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco are Black, despite the fact that they compose a mere 6% of San Francisco's population⁶⁵. Given these statistics, all efforts to combat the homeless crisis among Youth must be expressly aimed at assisting those who are most affected by the crisis.

Currently, San Francisco's primary effort to curb the homeless crisis has been in supportive and transitional housing,⁶⁶ which youth may gain entry to through Access Points, such as Larkin Youth Street Services. However, there are several barriers in place that prevent many youth from getting the proper resources and shelter they need to rebuild their lives.

Before getting placed into supportive housing, there's criteria that must be met by the unsheltered youth, and proper documentation that must be prepared beforehand. This documentation consists of records such as immigration papers, housing history, and/or income verification. These documents are especially difficult to attain if youth are undocumented, full-time students, or runaways since it is unlikely they would have knowledge of or access to such documents. However, while eligibility for youth and transitional-age youth entry into supportive housing is already an arduous process, their experiences once accepted into supportive housing can also be debilitating and significantly delay their exits.⁶⁷ There are various factors that may contribute to a distressing experience in supportive housing; for instance, location, accessibility of services, and staffing.

⁶² Applied Service Research, "San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report," accessed January 20, 2023,

<https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

⁶³ Megan Rose Dickey, "LGBTQ Youth Are Facing a Mental Health Crisis in California," Axios, December 16, 2022,

<https://www.axios.com/local/san-francisco/2022/12/16/lgbtq-youth-suicidal-thoughts-mental-health-california>.

⁶⁴ Megan Rose Dickey, "LGBTQ Youth Are Facing a Mental Health Crisis in California," Axios, December 16, 2022,

<https://www.axios.com/local/san-francisco/2022/12/16/lgbtq-youth-suicidal-thoughts-mental-health-california>.

⁶⁵ Applied Service Research, "San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report," accessed January 20, 2023,

<https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

⁶⁶ Kevin Fagan, Yuri Avila, and John Blanchard, "8 Ways to Improve San Francisco Housing for Homeless People," The San Francisco Chronicle, December 6, 2022,

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/sf-homeless-housing/>.

⁶⁷ Joaquin Palomino and Trisha Thadani, "S.F. Has Spent Millions to Shelter the Homeless in Run-down Hotels. These Are the Disastrous Results," The San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 2022,

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/san-francisco-sros/>.

Many of the single room occupancies that are utilized by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) as supportive housing sites are severely dilapidated⁶⁸ and almost entirely congregated within the Tenderloin and South of Market (SoMa),⁶⁹ which are neighborhoods infamous for high rates of drug dealing and usage. To place youth and transitional-age youth experiencing homelessness in housing conditions unfit for adults, and expect them to be able to rebuild their lives from the ground up given minimal and rudimentary resources, is absurd and counterintuitive to efforts toward alleviating the homeless crisis.

Moreover, upwards of 40% of the 650+ recorded drug overdose deaths in the Tenderloin took place in SRO's, and, "in total, San Francisco's supportive housing SROs have been the site of at least 16% of all fatal overdoses citywide [from 2019 until now], though the buildings house less than 1% of the population."⁷⁰

Additionally, services and programs implemented and funded by the city such as harm reduction centers are also often siloed and unavailable at supportive housing sites themselves. Because of this, youth and transitional-age-youth may be discouraged from utilizing them, thus, potentially delaying their exits and needed medical treatments.

While mobile sites and services provide a temporary solution for youth unable to travel to receive services, upholding these sites and services is strenuous for the staff and can cause major burn-out which then results in loss of staffing that places further strain upon other sites. Careers in this work field are fatiguing to manage and uphold due to 1) low pay, 2) lack of training for challenging work, and 3) very few opportunities for professional advancement.⁷¹

In fact, during the summer of 2022, SRO workers went on strike for a day to protest against their working conditions and demand higher pay for their labor. Many of the case managers that work in SRO's and clinics have caseloads that far exceed federal recommendations (20:1 to 25:1).⁷² During the strike, one of the social workers claimed that the average caseload varies, but that he had 110 caseloads, his friends had 85 and 50 respectively, and that he knew two workers at the Mission Hotel who each had 150.⁷³ While working with

⁶⁸ Joaquin Palomino and Trisha Thadani, "S.F. Has Spent Millions to Shelter the Homeless in Run-down Hotels. These Are the Disastrous Results," The San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 2022, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/san-francisco-sros/>.

⁶⁹ Kevin Fagan, Yuri Avila, and John Blanchard, "8 Ways to Improve San Francisco Housing for Homeless People," The San Francisco Chronicle, December 6, 2022, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/sf-homeless-housing/>.

⁷⁰ Trisha Thadani and Joaquin Palomino, "SF's Deadly Failure on the Drug Crisis Is Unfolding inside Its Own Housing Program," The San Francisco Chronicle, December 15, 2022, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/san-francisco-sros-overdoses/>.

⁷¹ Jackie Botts, "Five Challenges in Expanding California's Permanent Supportive Housing — and Potential Solutions," The GroundTruth Project, February 1, 2022, <https://thegroundtruthproject.org/five-challenges-in-expanding-californias-permanent-supportive-housing-and-potential-solutions/>.

⁷² Julia Dickson-Gomez et al., "Identifying Variability in Permanent Supportive Housing: A Comparative Effectiveness Approach to Measuring Health Outcomes.," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 87, no. 4 (2017): 414–24, <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000232>.

⁷³ Holly McDede and Matthew Green, "Tenderloin Housing Clinic Workers Strike in Demand for Higher Wages," KQED, July 27, 2022,

burnt-out and transitory staff, it can be difficult to build trust or form an actual connection between homeless youth and service providers, thus impeding a person's recovery after homelessness.

Past & Present Youth Commission Advocacy

The San Francisco Youth Commission has long advocated on the homelessness crisis, and especially its effects on Youth and TAY (Transitional-Age Youth). Every year since 2012, the San Francisco Youth Commission has dedicated a section of its Budget and Policy Priorities to addressing the needs of Transitional-Age Youth experiencing homelessness.⁷⁴ The Youth Commission has tirelessly advocated for increasing the amount of funding allocated towards serving the needs of these Youth. And indeed, the number of available services for Youth and TAY experiencing homelessness has increased in recent years, which has led to a decrease in the number of Youth and TAY experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. In addition, previous Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priority advocacy has resulted in concrete solutions. In the 2019-2020 Budget and Policy Priorities Report, the Youth Commission urged for the expedient construction of a Navigation Center solely focused on serving Transitional-Age Youth.⁷⁵ Following this advocacy, in February 2021, the City opened a 75-bed Navigation Center at 700 Hyde Street that continues to serve the needs of TAY experiencing homelessness.⁷⁶ Although the Youth Commission celebrates this progress, we also note that it is not nearly enough. Even with this Navigation Center, 84% of Youth and TAY experiencing homelessness in San Francisco are still unsheltered as of 2022.⁷⁷

Noting both the progress made as a result of prior advocacy as well as the continued need for more funding and support, the Youth Commission continues to demand stronger initiatives with the aim of building on the advocacy of past Commissions and addressing an overdue crisis that has proved extremely difficult to solve. By addressing the present needs of Youth and TAY experiencing homelessness right now, we hope to alleviate this crisis and hopefully pave a pathway toward resolving it.

Recommendations

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11920638/tenderloin-housing-clinic-workers-strike-in-demand-for-higher-wage>
S.

⁷⁴ "Archive of Budget and Policy Reports," San Francisco Youth Commission, accessed January 19, 2023, <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/archive-budget-and-policy-reports>

⁷⁵ FY 2019/20 & 20/21 Budget & Policy Priorities, San Francisco Youth Commission, accessed January 19, 2023, <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/SF%20Youth%20Commission%20BPPs%2019-20%20C%2020-21%20FINAL.pdf>

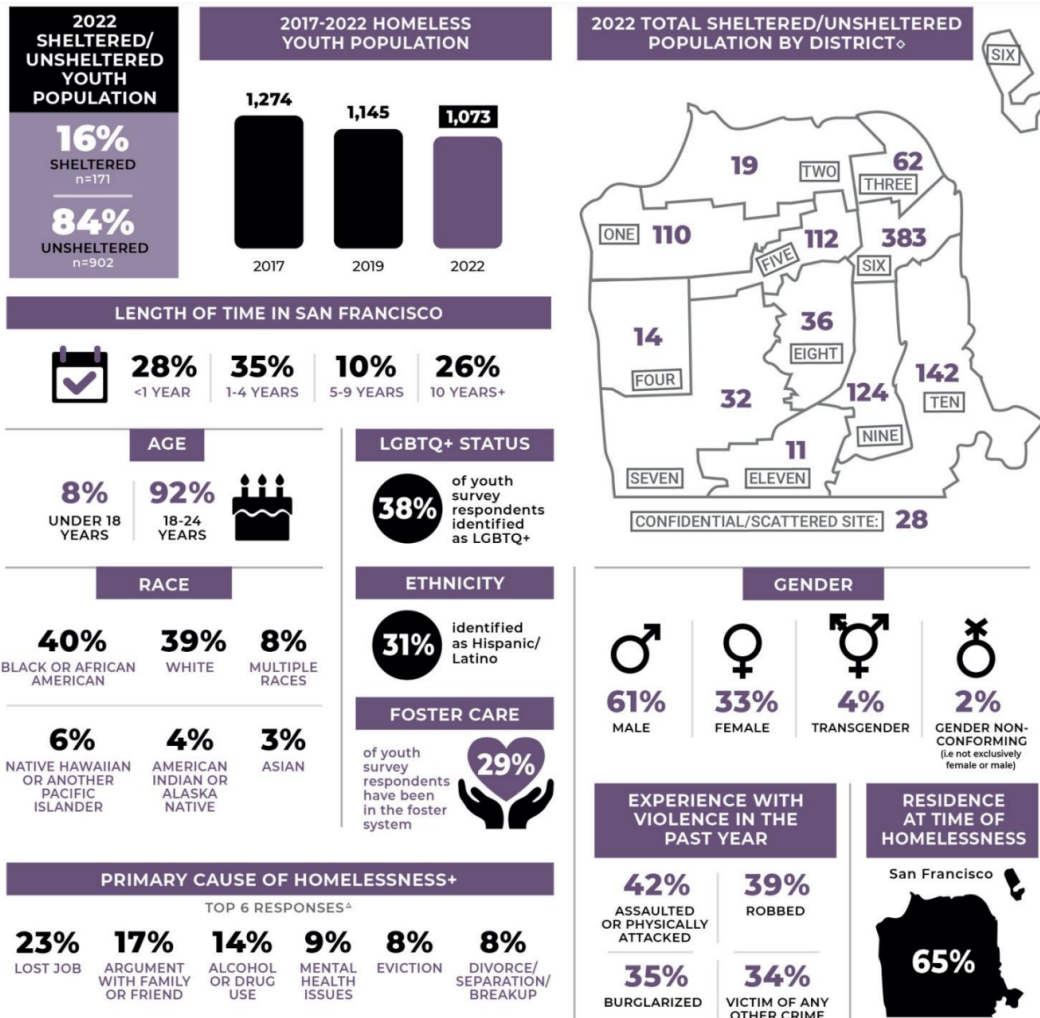
⁷⁶ "San Francisco to Open New 75-Bed Navigation Center for Transitional Age Youth" Office of the Mayor, February 3, 2021, accessed January 19, 2023,

<https://sfmayor.org/article/san-francisco-open-new-75-bed-navigation-center-transitional-age-youth>

⁷⁷ Applied Service Research, "San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report," accessed January 20, 2023, <https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

- 1. Open an additional TAY Navigation Center**
 - a. We recommend that the City and County of San Francisco opens another Navigation Center to exclusively serve the needs of Transitional-Age Youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 18 and 27. This space, which would ideally not be in close proximity to the existing TAY (Transitional-Age Youth) Navigation Center at 700 Hyde Street, will provide a crucial increase in the number of beds available to TAY experiencing homelessness, 84% of whom remain unsheltered
- 2. Hire more case managers to ensure an adequate ratio of case managers to residents**
 - a. For years, case managers in San Francisco's Navigation Centers have been overworked, making it more difficult for them to do their jobs. Thus, the Youth Commission recommends that the City invest resources into hiring more case managers to bring San Francisco in line with the federal recommendation of no more than 25 individuals per case manager.
- 3. Increase funding for development of on-site services**
 - a. We recommend The Mayor and The Board of Supervisors to include and allocate additional funding in the City Budget to The Department of HSH explicitly for the development of permanent services located at supportive housing and at Navigation Centers. Provided the additional funding, we would hope to mitigate the inefficiency of services and programs being inaccessible due to it not being within proximity to TAY (Transitional-Age Youth) housing.

Attached to 'Current Conditions'



Applied Service Research, “San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey, 2022 Point-In-Time Report,” accessed January 20, 2023,
<https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-San-Francisco-Youth-Count.pdf>

STUDY THE REMOVAL OF THE CENTRAL FREEWAY

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for funding to complete the study on removing the Central Freeway, centering the voices of marginalized groups.

BACKGROUND:

The Youth Commission recognizes that freeways disproportionately affect marginalized communities. When President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act, he created a foundation for mass suburbanization and an economy centered on the automobile. The act facilitated mass highway construction.⁷⁸ The highways propelled the economic development of predominantly White communities while creating the physical and economic destruction and underdevelopment of Black and low-income communities.⁷⁹ Planners of the interstate highway system routed many highways directly and intentionally through Black and Brown communities. Deborah Archer, professor at the New York University School of Law, explains that “Black people have been intentionally sacrificed to feed America’s growth and expansion”, demonstrating how the construction of highways benefited White communities while exploiting Black and Brown communities.⁸⁰ A historical analysis of census data revealed that freeways in San Francisco had become a color line, with a notably different racial composition of communities on both sides.⁸¹

Freeways are extremely detrimental to the environment. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California. In San Francisco, the transportation sector accounts for 2.2 million metric tons of CO₂e, or roughly 47% of the Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) emissions, according to the state’s most recent pre-pandemic inventory.⁸² Youth in particular have higher risks for health impacts from air pollution near roadways.⁸³

Freeways also overwhelmingly negatively affect the health of communities living near them with constant air and noise pollution, and safety hazards. Residents living near freeways report seeing, feeling, hearing, and smelling traffic and its negative by-products on a regular basis. They experience traffic exhaust on the sidewalk, bus stop, as well as in their homes. They are constantly disturbed by traffic noise and speeding cars.⁸⁴

Regarding the Central Freeway, Teresa Jan from Multistudio said that its constant flow of traffic “is the main source of noise pollution to the adjacent neighborhoods. It contributes to tinnitus, cognitive

⁷⁸ "How freeways bulldoze California communities of color," Calmatters, <https://calmatters.org/housing/2021/11/california-housing-crisis-podcast-freeways/>.

⁷⁹ Deborah N. Archer, *Transportation Policy and the Underdevelopment of Black Communities*, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3797364#.

⁸⁰ Archer, *Transportation Policy*, [Page 1].

⁸¹ <https://urbanhabitat.org/files/Sciammas%20Traffic%20Causes%20Death%202.pdf>

⁸² Letter by Scott Wiener, "Caltrans Central Freeway Letter," November 28, 2022, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qDBIKNdHZZXyejOi3bbiqRBADm2l3kXgy/view>.

⁸³ "Near Roadway," United States Environmental Protection Agency.

⁸⁴ Traffic Causes Death and Disease in San Francisco Neighborhood | Reimagine! (n.d.). <https://www.reimaginepe.org/node/2814>

impairment...and other preventable health problems including bronchitis, emphysema, abnormal heart rhythm, congestive heart failure, stroke.”⁸⁵

Freeways are inconsistent with the City’s transportation goals. The San Francisco City Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors adopted the Transit First Policy in 1973, “giving top priority to public transit investments as the centerpiece of the city’s transportation policy and adopting street capacity and parking policies to discourage increases in automobile traffic. This policy encourages multi-modalism rather than the continued use of the single-occupant vehicle”, as stated in the Planning Department’s Transportation Element of the General Plan.⁸⁶

Freeways significantly contribute to increased traffic accidents and fatalities in communities near them. According to SF StreetsBlog, “The highest instances of pedestrian fatalities are reported to center around freeway ramps that spill the highest volumes of motor traffic onto wide, one-way arterial roads in the city’s eastern neighborhoods. In SoMa, a growing residential population is walking in some of the city’s harshest conditions.”⁸⁷ Removing freeways would allow our City to meet its environmental, public transportation, and Vision Zero goals.

In November 2022, California Senator Scott Wiener (District 11) sent a letter to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting a study on the removal of the Central Freeway, which was co-signed by 12 nonprofit organizations, including Kid Safe SF, Spur, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Walk San Francisco, the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association, the Housing Action Coalition, and more.⁸⁸

Embarcadero Freeway Removal

There are numerous local examples of highways that have successfully turned into vital community spaces. For instance, when San Francisco’s 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake damaged the elevated double-decker Embarcadero Freeway, officials turned the area into a water-facing, pedestrian-friendly urban boulevard which has become one of the most popular attractions in the City.⁸⁹

Traffic increases from the Embarcadero Freeway removal predicted by Caltrans failed to materialize. Traffic actually improved without the freeway because the network of local streets, which were underutilized with the nearby freeways, were able to absorb and manage a great deal of traffic capacity.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ Rudick, R., Owens, D., Rudick, R., Bialick, A., Rudick, R., Curry, M., & Rudick, R. (2022, November 18). *SPUR Talk: Bury or Tear Down US-101 and the Central Freeway*. *Streetsblog San Francisco*. <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2022/11/18/spur-talk-bury-or-tear-down-us-101-and-the-central-freeway/>

⁸⁶ "San Francisco General Plan," San Francisco Planning, <https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/>.

⁸⁷ "City's Pedestrian Crash Toll Dwarfs Preventative Safety Costs," StreetsBlog SF, <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2011/04/12/citys-pedestrian-crash-toll-dwarfs-preventative-safety-costs/>

⁸⁸ "Forget the Central Subway—What's Happening With the Central Freeway?," *San Francisco Standard*, <https://sfstandard.com/housing-development/forget-the-central-subway-whats-happening-with-the-central-freeway/>.

⁸⁹ Claire Wang, "Federal Highway Removal Program Raises Hopes in California," *The American Prospect*, <https://prospect.org/infrastructure/building-back-america/federal-highway-removal-program-raises-hopes-in-california/>.

⁹⁰ John Norquist, *A Freeway-Free San Francisco*, [Page 5],

After the Embarcadero freeway removal, the new boulevard saw increases in jobs, retail sales, and affordable housing in the market. Furthermore, the property tax base for the City increased.⁹¹ Additionally, the new boulevard encouraged public transit, and various modes of transit, walking, and cycling were able to coexist with cars after the freeway removal.⁹²

Octavia Boulevard Freeway Removal

Additionally, the Youth Commission found that in 1999, voters approved a proposition to build Octavia Boulevard to replace the concrete section of the Central Freeway west of Market Street.⁹³ In 2003, the Central Freeway ramp north of Mission Street was demolished, and plans for the new Octavia Boulevard were approved. In 2004, construction on the new Octavia Boulevard began after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urged the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) to study the relocation of the freeway's on-and-off-ramps and alternatives to the freeway, and postpone retrofits in order to lessen the negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.⁹⁴ The land beneath the section north of Market Street was redeveloped into housing, while the remainder south of Market Street was repaired.⁹⁵

According to the Project for Public Spaces, the transformation of Octavia Boulevard led to a 75% increase in transit trips (a large increase in housing production), a 23% increase in employment, an increase in home values, and a new park development.⁹⁶

In a follow-up study of the Octavia Boulevard freeway closure, Caltrans concluded that a campaign alerting drivers of alternatives was a success as drivers learned new ways to navigate the City by car and a traffic increase did not ensue.⁹⁷ Research found that taking down the Central Freeway would create opportunities for new housing, similar to Octavia Boulevard.⁹⁸ One survey suggested that removing three miles of the Central Freeway would make space for 13,000 new homes.⁹⁹ The late San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, SPUR, and the Spring 2014 graduate design studio at UC Berkeley noted that this section of freeway was underutilized and its removal could allow for new housing to be built and also simplify the Caltrain Downtown Extension and California High-Speed Rail projects.¹⁰⁰

⁹¹ Norquist, *A Freeway-Free*, [Page 10].

⁹² Norquist, *A Freeway-Free*, [Page 16].

⁹³ "Forget the Central,"

⁹⁴ "Resolution urging the Governor to postpone future retrofits of the Central Freeway deck and to commit the State to participate in a study of alternative future configurations for the Central Freeway," San Francisco Board of Supervisors, <https://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/resolutions04/r0304-04.pdf>.

⁹⁵ Alex Mullaney, "Any Plan for the Central Freeway Must Be Community-Led, New Coalition Says," San Francisco Standard, <https://sfstandard.com/transportation/future-plans-central-freeway-community-coalition/>.

⁹⁶ "Octavia Boulevard: Creating a Vibrant Neighborhood from a Former Freeway," Project for Public Spaces, <https://www.pps.org/article/octavia-boulevard-creating-a-vibrant-neighborhood-from-a-former-freeway#:~:text=The%20city%20accomplished%20this%20by,light%20fixtures%20and%20brick%20color>.

⁹⁷ Henderson, "Conservative Fight," FoundSF.

⁹⁸ Robert Steuteville, "Urban repair through freeway removal," CNU, <https://www.cnu.org/publicsquare/2021/04/22/urban-repair-through-freeway-removal#:~:text=A%20mile%20long%20section%20of,to%20the%20I%2D80%20interchange>.

⁹⁹ Roger Rudick, "SPUR Talk: Bury or Tear Down US-101 and the Central Freeway," StreetsBlog SF, <https://sf.streetsblog.org/2022/11/18/spur-talk-bury-or-tear-down-us-101-and-the-central-freeway/>.

¹⁰⁰ John Norquist, *A Freeway-Free San Francisco*, [Page 18], https://www.cnu.org/sites/default/files/freeway-free-san-francisco_0.pdf.

Octavia Boulevard has become a model for other cities, as it has been honored at the local and national level, including an award last month from the American Planning Association. There is congestion on the roadway and tension at the park, however this problem is a result of the boulevard's new popularity.¹⁰¹

The Youth Commission recognizes that studying and completing freeway removal is an expensive process. The 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot discretionary grant program, funded with \$1 billion for planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance, to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure. States, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations can apply for a planning grant to study removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility or to conduct planning activities necessary to design a project to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an existing eligible facility.¹⁰² The City and County of San Francisco is eligible for a planning grant from the Reconnecting Communities Pilot program to complete various studies on the Central Freeway.¹⁰³

The Youth Commission learned about a provision in the 2005 San Francisco General Plan's Transportation Element which called for a comprehensive study on the removal of the Central Freeway south of Market Street and an "analysis of the impacts and benefits on surrounding neighborhood livability, local and regional transportation, especially Muni and regional transit services, and economic impacts"¹⁰⁴, but the study was never completed.¹⁰⁵ The Planning Department was said to be updating the transportation section of the General Plan in 2022, and what will happen to the study of the Central Freeway is yet to be seen.¹⁰⁶ However, the Planning Department's Chief of Staff, Dan Sider, said the department still has not conducted any meaningful engagement on the freeway removal study.¹⁰⁷

In January 2023, The Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2223-AL-07 outlining the issues caused by freeways, examples of successful past freeway removals, and urging the City and County of San Francisco to study the Central Freeway.¹⁰⁸ This resolution was the first ever resolution related to freeways passed by the Youth Commission. After the passing of the resolution, Youth Commissioners met with leaders from Vision Boulevard, the new grassroots campaign and movement to remove the Central Freeway.¹⁰⁹ In March 2023, Youth Commissioners attended a community forum at Manny's called "Should the Central Freeway Come Down?" Youth Commissioners will continue meeting with community leaders, organizations, agencies, and attending events to continue our advocacy in regard to freeways.

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<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/place/article/SAN-FRANCISCO-An-urban-success-story-Octavia-2659608.php>

¹⁰² "Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants

¹⁰³ "Reconnecting Communities," United States Department of Transportation.

¹⁰⁴ "San Francisco," San Francisco Planning.

¹⁰⁵ "Forget the Central,"

¹⁰⁶ Mullaney, "Any Plan," San Francisco Standard.

¹⁰⁷ Mullaney, "Any Plan," San Francisco Standard.

¹⁰⁸ <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/RESOLUTION%202223-AL-07%20v3.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ Vision Blvd. "Home," n.d. <https://www.visionblvd.org/>.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

1. Work with Caltrans to identify relevant historical documents and to complete the study on the removal of the Central Freeway for which a study has already been explicitly called for, in San Francisco's General Plan.
2. Identify and apply for grant sources to study and develop plans for freeway removal, such as the Reconnecting Communities Pilot program.
3. Center the voices of marginalized groups, and acknowledge the letter that more than 100 organizations, nonprofits, and cultural districts sent to the Planning Department and its officials requesting to be in the center of all actions made regarding the Central Freeway.¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ Mullaney, "Any Plan," San Francisco Standard.

MAKE FREE MUNI FOR ALL YOUTH PERMANENT

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

Background

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Free Muni For Youth (FMFY). This advocacy began in 2010 with RESOLUTION NO. 1011-AL04¹¹¹ calling on SFMTA and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to implement the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass. Further resolutions called for the expansion of the program to 18-year-olds and later to expand the program to all youth.

The FMFY program was created in 2013 as a pilot program that allowed low to moderate-income youth aged 5-17 to ride for free. The program was partially funded with a grant from Google. The implementation was a partial response to SFUSD yellow school bus cuts. The means-tested pilot program became permanent in 2015.¹¹² In April 2020, the program was expanded to 18-year-olds and students enrolled in Special Education and English Learner programs through age 22.¹¹³

The 2019-20 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-AL-14¹¹⁴ where they highlighted that the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate Income Youth program suffered from a complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with limited English proficiency and people who do not have easy access to the SFMTA offices at 1 South Van Ness Avenue. Youth Commissioners proposed the FMFAY Program in the resolution. The new program would reduce the administrative burden on SFMTA to process applications, verify eligibility, and issue Clipper cards.

During the 2019-20 budget advocacy season and forward, Youth Commissioners met with SFMTA budget staff urging them to fund the 1-year pilot program. Additionally, Youth Commissioners included the FMFAY program in their fall 2020 Omnibus Preliminary Budget Priorities.

On August 15, 2021, Muni, with \$2 Million in funding included in Mayor Breed's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget proposal, launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program until August 14, 2022. On April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve their FY 2023-24 budget¹¹⁵ which included \$4.1 Million to continue the FMFAY program until June 2024.

¹¹¹

<https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/FileCenter/Documents/37481-10-11--AL04--Youth%20Lifeline%20Follow%20Up.pdf>

¹¹² <https://www.kqed.org/news/127970/google-to-fund-san-franciscos-free-muni-for-youth-program>

¹¹³ <https://www.sfmta.com/blog/young-people-ride-muni-free>

¹¹⁴

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1920-AL-14_FINAL%20RESOLUTION_Free%20Muni%20For%20ALL%20Youth%20included%20in%20SFMTA%20budget.pdf

¹¹⁵

https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2022/04/4-19-22_mtab_item_12b_consolidated_budget_-_book.pdf

The FMFAY program is critical in removing the financial burden of fares for families. The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities.

The implementation of FMFAY has dramatically increased program accessibility compared to the previous means-tested program. SFUSD's most recent travel tally survey¹¹⁶ found that 60% of SFUSD 9th graders use Muni on a given day. The new program is succeeding in reaching youth who didn't previously have a Free Muni Clipper Card. 61% of youth utilizing the FMFAY program did not participate in the means-tested FMFY program.¹¹⁷

Recommendations:

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

¹¹⁶ https://docs.google.com/file/d/114DDUWnTGwrca2AGUYQ2wao6tfcuKp_F/edit?filetype=msexcel

¹¹⁷ ■ Free Muni for Youth Survey Results January 2022.pdf

URGING ON THE COMPLETE CLOSURE OF JUVENILE HALL AND THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR YOUTH AND TRANSITIONAL-AGED YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports the complete closure of San Francisco's Juvenile Hall, and rehabilitative alternatives to youth and transitional-aged youth incarceration.

BACKGROUND

Closing Juvenile Hall has long been a policy priority of the Youth Commission. This advocacy began with the 2018-2019 Youth Commission via their Budget and Policy Priority report, which advocated for the closure of Juvenile Hall and the expansion of wrap-around services that provide opportunities for rehabilitative and restorative justice for juvenile offenders.

On April 9, 2019, Supervisors Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, and Matt Haney introduced BOS File No. 190392 [Administrative Code - Juvenile Hall Closure],¹¹⁸ amending the Administrative Code to require Juvenile Hall be closed by December 31, 2021, expand community-based alternatives to detention, and provide a rehabilitative, non-institutional place of detention, among other recommendations to support community-based alternatives to detention. Additional Supervisors, such as Supervisors Gordon Mar, Aaron Peskin, and Sandra Lee Fewer, quickly signed on, bringing the total number of supporters to a majority. After the Young Women Freedom Center organized a rally on City Hall steps, Supervisors Ahsha Safai and Vallie Brown added their names to their colleagues, guaranteeing that the vote would be immune to a veto.¹¹⁹ This legislation was then referred to the Youth Commission in May 2019.



Following a presentation on the proposed ordinance from the District 10 Office, the Transformative Justice Committee commented on the legislation with a letter of support stating that the Youth Commission believes that incarceration leaves youth traumatized, disconnected, and disempowered.¹²⁰ Additionally, the legislation ordered that instead of the Juvenile Hall, San Francisco would develop an expanded array of alternatives to incarceration for young people. In

¹¹⁸ City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors Legislation. "Administrative Code - Juvenile Hall Closure," April 9, 2019. Accessed February 18, 2023. <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3917990&GUID=3EDAB515-DF4A-44E4-9F22-ADE1BC86C0E4&Options=ID|Text|&Search=190392>.

¹¹⁹ City and County of San Francisco Youth Commission. (2019). SF Youth Commission BPPs 19-20, 20-21 FINAL.pdf. SF.GOV. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/SF+Youth+Commission+BPPs+19-20,+20-21+FINAL.pdf>

addition to expanding community-based alternatives to detention, the City would provide a rehabilitative, non-institutional place of detention, establish a working group for the closure plan, and establish a Youth Justice Reinvestment Fund. The Youth Commission was in unanimous support of the legislation.

On June 4, 2019, the Board of Supervisors voted 10-1 on BOS File No. 190392, marking a radical shift in how San Francisco would now handle criminal justice for young people.

In November 2021, the San Francisco Close Juvenile Hall Work Group (which had its first meeting on December 18, 2019) published an 88-page report to the Board of Supervisors with 39 proposed recommendations.¹²¹ 32 of the recommendations were about the general atmosphere of the Juvenile Hall such as programs and activities, and the remaining 7 recommendations were about the space of the Juvenile Hall. The making of the proposed recommendations included the following participants: 14 workgroup members, 17 government agencies, and 7 subcommittees with over 10 members each. On December 31, 2021, after releasing the report, the San Francisco Close Juvenile Hall Work Group disbanded.

As of today, January 22, 2023, over three years since the BOS voted on closing Juvenile Hall, San Francisco's Juvenile Hall remains open. As perfectly stated by San Francisco Chronicle, "City Hall red tape has delayed this effort well past its deadline" and today, "Juvenile Hall is still open well past its targeted closure date" and with "the city paying a staggering \$1.1 million per kid each year to house them."¹²² Supervisor Shamann Walton added, "We are still committed to closing Juvenile Hall...But there are some real obstacles."¹²³ While some of the obstacles seem reasonable, such as the City not being able to close the facility with no follow-up plan as there has to be one sort of alternative finalized in terms of what to do with juvenile offenders, others are not, like the fact that there have been delays in creating alternative support programs for rehabilitation, and most importantly, identifying an alternative site.

Due to the delays regarding the closure of Juvenile Hall, on December 14, 2022, Commissioners met with Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Chief Katherine W. Miller to discuss updates on Juvenile Hall and learn about why it had yet to be closed. Chief Miller gave a briefer to the Commissioners on the current situation with the JJC. Commissioners learned that the Board of Supervisors never formally approved any of the proposals recommended by the workgroups. Therefore, the City never had a formal obligation to carry out any of the proposals for Juvenile Hall. Additionally,



¹²¹ San Francisco Close Juvenile Hall Work Group. (2021 C.E., November). SF.GOV. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/sites/default/files/CJHWG_FINAL_Report+to+the+Board+of+Supervisors_11.29.21_0.pdf

¹²² Cabanatuan, M. (2022, May 21). San Francisco's juvenile hall was scheduled to close last year. So why are kids still locked up there? San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/San-Francisco-juvenile-hall-17182867.php>

¹²³ Cabanatuan, 2022

Commissioners learned that during the creation of the proposals, it seems that no one checked the legality of each proposal and whether the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor had the jurisdiction or power to approve and uphold these proposals. Several of the proposals require the State to sign off on the approval or require the approval of other agencies such as probation officers, courts, police officers, and public health employees. Chief Miller stated that “most of the power is on the Courts because it is a state agency, not a county agency, therefore, the Board of Supervisors nor the Mayor can tell them what to do or change.” In order to move forward and for the proposals to come to fruition, the BOS and working groups must figure out every single decision-maker needed to approve each of the proposals, and sit down with them to come to a mutual conclusion.

Furthermore, Commissioners learned about the two hearings the Board of Supervisors held in February and May 2022. The February hearing listed all the proposals created and the public agencies that would have a responsibility to approve and ensure the proposals were met. The May hearing viewed the 32 recommendations again and discussed the possibility of working with the State Courts and District Attorney’s office on reducing the use of warrants.

Commissioners also learned about the current state of the JJC. Chief Miller described the Hall as a “jail”, and her ideal goal for the transformation of the Hall is to “create a place grounded in wellness, transformation, and connection to the community with small amounts of people.” However, for the new Hall to be created, JJC needs approval by the State and local presiding judge to construct a new building that is up to code and meets the requirements for a facility housing juvenile offenders. The JJC also needs the approval of a new site to create this rehabilitative building. Chief Miller suggested that a new, smaller 30-bed facility be built on the current property, an 80% reduction on the current size of the Center. However, when the plans for the current JJC were created in the late 1990s the desire for increased funding for the project led to the approval and construction of a \$45 million, 150-bed facility.¹²⁴

Chief Miller and staff have been successful in creating small changes in the JJC that makes the detained youth more comfortable, though they have held back from making more substantial physical changes as they do not know “what will happen to the Hall in a few months... a year”. The smaller changes made to the JJC include, but are not limited to, new and improved mattresses, an outdoor kitchen so that the youth can have meals together, new sports/fitness equipment, asking the youth what type of clothes they want to wear, what colored walls they want in their room, and if they want rugs/desks/etc, and brought in almost a dozen community programming. The JJC has also hired an architect and has been working with community members, and the youth currently incarcerated to design a new Center that meets the requirements set by the State and follows their vision for what they want the Center to represent;

¹²⁴ Jones, A. (2022, May 24). Why there will be no new Juvenile Hall for San Francisco. Medium. Retrieved <https://calclemevy.medium.com/why-san-francisco-juvenile-hall-will-not-close-558f7d838fc3>



however, no physical progress or decisions have been possible without the permission of the Courts and State.

In February 2023, the Youth Commission took a tour of the Juvenile Justice Center with Chief Miller. On this tour, Commissioners visited different rooms, including the Center's dental and hospital section, classrooms, the library, the gym, the outdoor spaces, living quarters, and so on. Commissioners were able to ask pressing questions, inquire about what they saw, and afterward, discuss the future of the Center. Most importantly, the Commissioners viewed first-hand the additions Chief Miller has made to the Center and were able to learn more about the changes made; the most important change being the new undergarments and clothing the youth receive, rather than getting hand-downs of previously detained youth. This small but significant change has made the youth's experience more positive. Changes such as these must continue to be made (but in order for this to happen, the Center needs additional funding).

San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department Monthly Statistics Through August 2022

There has been a drastic drop in juvenile crime in San Francisco in the past few years. Data from the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department¹²⁵ demonstrates that:

- 1) The average daily population in Juvenile Hall between January 2021 and August 2022, was 16 youth, with a peak population of 19 youth;
- 2) There were 288 youth on active caseload, about the same as August 2021 with 29% of pre-adjudicated cases being handled through various types of diversion;
- 3) 58% of youth on active caseload were active in San Francisco programs;
- 4) There were 28 youth in alternative placements, a 32% decrease from August 2021;
- 5) In August, the gender breakdown of Juvenile Hall was 88% boys, the racial/ethnic breakdown of Juvenile Hall was 65% Black youth, 24% Latinx youth, and 12% AAPI youth, and the age breakdown of Juvenile Hall was over 44% young adults ages 18 and older;
- 6) There were 24 admissions to Juvenile Hall, where 63% were mandatory: 10 new law violations, 4 warrants/court orders, and 1 transfer-in, and 37% were non-mandatory: 7 DRI scores and 2 DRI overrides for repeated failures to engage after prior citations;
- 7) There were 52 referrals to Probation: 40 were for felonies (77%); 15 of which were for 707(b) offenses (29%); 7 were for misdemeanors (13%); 5 were for warrants/probation violations (10%); and there were 13 CARC referrals and 6 Make it Right referrals; and
- 8) As of the last day of August, there were 16 youths in Home Detention, with the average length of stay being 118 days. 81% were boys, 50% were Black and 50% were Latinx, and 94% were pre-adjudicated.

Funding for Juvenile Hall

¹²⁵ San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department Monthly Statistics Through August 2022. (2022, October 12). SF.GOV. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/sites/default/files/JPC_Monthly_Report_10.6.22.pdf

During the Commissioners' meeting with Chief Miller, they discovered that funding for the new Center has not been addressed by the Board of Supervisors nor the working groups, however, building an entirely new building is extremely expensive. Additionally, because California's State Juvenile Centers were shut down, each county is now responsible for having a Juvenile Center; every county needs to create a plan for the historically small group of youth that would be taken to for serious offenses. While we want the Juvenile Hall to be closed and move towards rehabilitative alternatives for youth incarceration, San Francisco is required to have a Juvenile Hall by the State.

In 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 92,¹²⁶ setting a defined closure date of June 30, 2023, for all of California's remote Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities. Under the state's new plan, rather than spending their young impressionable years locked in prisons, young people convicted of the most serious offenses would remain in their home counties, closer to their families and communities. Punitive measures would give way to "public health approaches to support positive youth development," the legislation states.¹²⁷

In September 2020, Newsom signed SB 823, which shifts responsibility for youth convicted of serious offenses from the state to the counties, provides \$118,339,000 to counties in the 2022-23 fiscal year, and increases the annual allocation to \$208,800,000 in 2024-25 and beyond. Additionally, after SB 823 passed, the State provided counties with \$9.6 million in one-time grants to help them prepare to receive the new population of youth who had previously been sent to the state—money that could be used for upgrading local juvenile detention facilities to make them more secure.¹²⁸

The City and County of San Francisco received this one-time \$9.6 million grant, called the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG), in 2020. The grant, as stated by San Francisco's DJJ Realignment Subcommittee, will be utilized to "support young people who were otherwise eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prior to its closure. These young people could range in age from 14 to 25 and would have been adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or on an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code."¹²⁹ However, Chief Miller stated that San Francisco "has not formally accepted the funding by the State."

Conclusion

¹²⁶ "Bill Text - SB-92 Juvenile Justice." Accessed February 18, 2023.

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB92.

¹²⁷ Division of Juvenile Justice. (2022, December 5). DJJ Realignment/Closure Portal. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/juvenile-justice/djj-realignment-portal/>

¹²⁸ BERNSTEIN, N. (2022, June 27). California Budget Plan Supports Shifting Youth from State Prisons to Juvenile Halls, Amid Opposition. The Imprint. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://imprintnews.org/justice/juvenile-justice-2/california-budget-youth-prison-juvenile-halls/66105>

¹²⁹ San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan. (2021, December 20). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/San-Francisco-DJJ-Realignment-Plan_Final_Submission_OYCR.12.27.21_Redacted.pdf

We reaffirm what the 2018-2019 Youth Commission’s Budget and Policy Priority #4 stated, “Solutions to incarceration are simple and multifaceted—the city needs to build with community partners and invest in community resources and address unmet physical and emotional needs of a young person. We must move away from building prisons and jails to rehabilitate young people as they only serve to remove them from the community. We must address the initial reasons why a young person gets into contact with the legal system.” There must be a reallocation of the budget of \$1.3 million that it takes to incarcerate each young person for a year in Juvenile Hall. We urge that we utilize that money, the \$9.6 million grant from the State, and the increased budget allocation given to counties, to contribute funding to address harm, support local organizations and community programs that offer incentives that move away from gangs, crimes, and violence, and on a larger scale, change how our City addresses youth incarceration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) **Continue to fund City Departments and CBO’s that support youth and provide violence prevention and youth development.** The Youth Commission supports additional funding to City Departments and CBO’s such as 1) the [San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and their Families](#), which ensures that families with children are a prominent and valued segment of San Francisco's social fabric by supporting programs and activities in every San Francisco neighborhood; 2) the [San Francisco Human Rights Commission](#), which advocates for human and civil rights, and works in service of the City’s anti-discrimination laws to further racial solidarity, equity, and healing, and created the Dream Keeper Fellowship and My Brother and Sister’s Keeper, to serve communities of color in San Francisco, with a particular focus on African Americans, and on justice in-risk and public housing youth and their families; 3) [Young Women Freedom’s Center](#), a social services organization that provides support, mentorship, training, employment, and advocacy to young women and trans youth of all genders in California who have grown up in poverty, experienced the juvenile legal and foster care systems, have had to survive living and working on the streets, and who have experienced significant violence in their lives; 4) [Coleman Advocates](#), a non-profit organization that has pioneered programs and policies to expand opportunity for San Francisco’s children, youth and families, and focuses on building more effective, equitable, and supportive public schools in San Francisco and beyond; 5) [5 Elements SF](#), A San Francisco youth program that uses hip-hop culture and Ethnic Studies to develop

the social and emotional learning of youth through art, critical education, and civic engagement; and 6) [United Playaz](#), a San Francisco-based violence prevention and youth development organization that provides a comprehensive range of services to prepare vulnerable youth for higher education, employment, and healthy living within a safe, nurturing, and collaborative environment.

- 2) Increase funding for the Juvenile Justice Center in order for there to be more funding for much-needed clothing, food, programs, equipment, and resources available for young people.**
- 3) Work with the State and Courts to finalize a decision on a new Juvenile Hall facility and location.** The Youth Commission believes that the new facility must be rooted in rehabilitation and wellness, and must be close to the detained youth's families and community members.
- 4) Once a decision regarding San Francisco's current juvenile hall and future place of detention is finalized, accept the \$9.6 million grant from California to use the juvenile hall as San Francisco's interim Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).**

EXPAND SAFETY MEASURES FOR YOUTH DRUG-RELATED DEATHS BY FUNDING A NARCAN PROGRAM IN ALL SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOLS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the implementation of a Narcan Program in San Francisco schools to prevent further fentanyl deaths in our City's youth.

BACKGROUND

Fentanyl is a quick-acting synthetic opioid pain reliever with a potency 50–100 times greater than that of heroin. Recently, there has been a rise in illegally manufactured fentanyl in laboratories as fake prescription pills, which has been frequently linked to recent drug overdose deaths.

Fentanyl in San Francisco

In the spring of 2015, the first wave of illegally-produced fentanyl entered San Francisco. Since then, there have been multiple clusters of overdoses linked to fentanyl.¹³⁰ Fentanyl overdoses are commonly caused by other drugs being contaminated with Fentanyl or Fentanyl pills being sold as other drugs. According to the California Department of Public Health, there were 234 fentanyl-related deaths in California in 2016 and 373 in 2017, a 59% increase in only one year.¹³¹

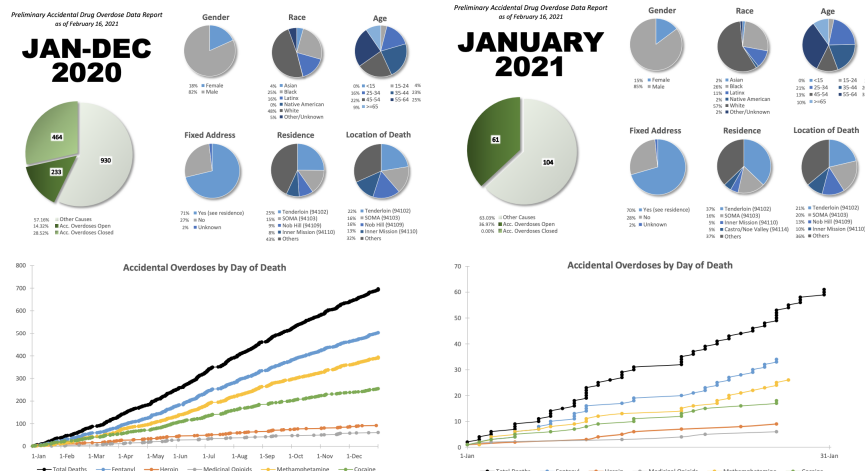
In 2020 and 2021, San Francisco's Tenderloin and South of Market (SOMA) districts saw between 18% and 23% of overdose deaths. In total, over 1,360 drug overdose deaths have occurred in San Francisco, with the Tenderloin district and SOMA once more hosting the majority of these fatalities.¹³²

¹³⁰ Eliza Wheeler and Kristen Marshall, "Fentanyl Safety: A Guide for San Francisco's First Responders," Harm Reduction Coalition, accessed January 7, 2023,

<https://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Resource-Fentanyl-FentanylSafetyAGuideforSanFranciscosFirstResponders.pdf>.

¹³¹ Wheeler and Marshall, "Fentanyl Safety: A Guide for San Francisco's First Responders."

¹³² Luke N. Rodda, "OCME Overdose Report," February 17, 2021, accessed January 10, 2023, <https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-01/2021%20OCME%20Overdose%20Report.pdf>.



A recent rise in “rainbow fentanyl” has now saturated San Francisco’s drug supply, with drug dealers targeting teenagers and young adults because the brightly colored pills/powder attracts younger buyers.



Although teen drug use has remained constant over time (about 30% of 10th graders), deaths have been rapidly increasing in San Francisco: 253 in 2019, 680 in 2020, and 880 in 2021. Additionally, in the United States, fentanyl is at fault for 77% of drug-related deaths among teenagers.¹³³

According to California's Overdose Surveillance Dashboard¹³⁴, it appears that fentanyl-related opioid deaths are trending younger. For example, the highest prevalence of fentanyl-related overdose deaths in Alameda County in 2020 occurred in adults 30 to 34 years old, and in 2021, it shifted to people 25 to 29 years old.

In February 2018, three non-opioid-using young people overdosed simultaneously overnight in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. Samples of paraphernalia and other drugs found at the scene were tested by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. It was discovered that methamphetamine, ketamine, fentanyl, and acetyl fentanyl were in the drugs, despite the young people believing that they were only taking ketamine.¹³⁵

¹³³ Jennifer Epstein, “Naloxone Distribution Project: The Power To Save Lives,” Slide show presentation, <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xTPvqRaqXmbH4JdrlNtir5lj5QtwEFAw/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111580268407164799664&rtpof=true&sd=true>

¹³⁴ “Alameda County Dashboard Count,” California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://skyllab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/?tab=CTY>.

¹³⁵ Kurtis Alexander, “Deaths of Three Men in the Haight Traced to Fentanyl-Laced Street Drugs,” San Francisco Chronicle, February 23, 2018, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Deaths-of-three-men-in-the-Haight-traced-to-12704657.p7p>.

Additionally, according to a national study¹³⁶ that examined 25 cases from 2004 to 2013 of small children dying and/or surviving after accidentally ingesting fentanyl, there were twelve cases being fatal, the youngest case of fentanyl overdose involved a 1-year-old, boys as young as 2 survived, and the majority of cases involved boys between the ages of 2 and 4.

On November 27, 2022, a 10-month-old baby accidentally overdosed on fentanyl at a San Francisco Marina district playground, likely caused by powder exposure, though it is difficult to determine exactly when and where such exposure occurred.¹³⁷

Life-Saving Naloxone

More than one in three opioid overdoses involve witnesses,¹³⁸ and with the correct equipment, like Naloxone, bystanders can take action to prevent overdose deaths. Naloxone is a life-saving treatment designed to quickly reverse the effects of opioid overdoses.¹³⁹ Naloxone is administered as a nasal spray.) Naloxone acts as a temporary countermeasure to opioids and quickly brings back normal breathing in those whose breath has slowed or even stopped. Naloxone is also easy to store and has a long shelf life.¹⁴⁰

16 percent of individuals who acquire take-home Naloxone from schools have helped to reverse an opioid overdose.¹⁴¹ California's Good Samaritan Law protects individuals who may use Naloxone to reverse an overdose.

Naloxone in California and San Francisco

In 2017, the largest single-city Naloxone distribution program in the United States, the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project, provided approximately 20,000 doses of Narcan (brand name for Naloxone). DOPE has recorded over 1,266 overdose reversals.¹⁴²

A Narcan Program has been adopted in California school districts such as Placer County, Marin County, Solano County, and Los Angeles County, with data showcasing great success in drug

¹³⁶ William V. Stoecker et al., "Boys at Risk: Fatal Accidental Fentanyl Ingestions in Children," National Library of Medicine, November 2016, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6139757/>.

¹³⁷ Mallory Moench, "Dad Reveals Horrific Details of Baby's Reported Fentanyl OD at SF Park," San Francisco Chronicle, December 7, 2022, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/San-Francisco-authorities-investigating-whether-a-17621718.php>.

¹³⁸ Epstein, "Naloxone Distribution Project: The Power To Save Lives."

¹³⁹ "Naloxone," U.S. Department Of Health & Human Services, September 27, 2022, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/medications-counseling-related-conditions/naloxone>.

¹⁴⁰ Emergent Biosolutions. (2020, August). Frequently Asked Questions about NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray Shelf-Life Extension and Updated Storage Conditions. Retrieved January 19, 2023, from https://pharmacy.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2020/08/narcan_faq.pdf

¹⁴¹ Epstein, "Naloxone Distribution Project: The Power To Save Lives."

¹⁴² National Harm Reduction Coalition and San Francisco Department of Public Health, "The DOPE Project," National Harm Reduction Coalition, November 7, 2022, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://harmreduction.org/our-work/action/dope-project-san-francisco/>.

overdose reversals, a decrease in drug-related deaths, and more families/citizens' aware on fentanyl-laced pills, the symptoms of an overdose, and how to administer Naloxone.¹⁴³

In December 2022, California also passed SB 367¹⁴⁴, known as the Campus Opioid Safety Act, to prevent opioid-related overdoses on State University campuses by providing naloxone (without a cost) and educating young people on its uses.¹⁴⁵

San Francisco currently lacks a Narcan program in schools, despite a high number of youth drug-related deaths. However, San Francisco's city employees do have access to free Narcan and training.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

In January 2023, the Youth Commission passed Resolution NO. 2223-AL-08 [Combating Fentanyl Usage in Youth] urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco to implement a Narcan program in all San Francisco public, private, and charter schools.

To educate ourselves more on the drug crisis in San Francisco, Youth Commissioners also attended two events in January focused on Safe Consumption Sites, and possible strategies to decrease fentanyl-related overdoses and deaths. Commissioners were able to hear from current San Francisco residents about their personal experiences with drugs and their concerns/fears/questions, and from experts working in the field.



Top Image: Panel on Safe Consumption Sites by Supervisor Ronen, San Francisco District 9.

¹⁴³ Holly McDede and Center for Health Journalism, "San Francisco's Overdose Crisis Has Received National Attention. So Why Is the Data Such a Mess?," Center for Health Journalism, August 31, 2022, accessed January 7, 2023, <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/2022/08/08/san-francisco-s-overdose-crisis-has-received-national-attention-so-why-data-such-mess>.

¹⁴⁴ "Campus Opioid Safety Act." Accessed February 18, 2023. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/saph/Pages/Campus-Opioid-Safety-Act.aspx>.

¹⁴⁵ CBS San Francisco. (2022, December 26). New California law allows colleges, universities to obtain naloxone without cost. CBS News. Retrieved January 19, 2023, from <https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/campus-opioid-safety-act-sb367-colleges-universities-naloxone-narcan-without-cost/>

Bottom Image: Discussion between Terry Morris and Cedric G, Akbar on the question: Does Safe Consumption Work to Treat Drug Addiction?

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) **Grant additional funds to the Department of Public Health in order for a Naloxone Distribution Program to be implemented.** San Francisco has a duty to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans struggling with drug addictions.
- 2) **Apply for a grant from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to access free naloxone for organizations and entities eligible to administer or distribute naloxone through the California Public Health standing order, and to individuals with a valid prescription.** *Similar to what Marin County did.*
- 3) **Implement the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) in all San Francisco public, private, and charter schools in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project to reduce fentanyl overdose-related deaths among San Francisco's youth.** *Similar to what California counties adopted, such as Placer County, Marin County, Solano County, and Los Angeles County.*
- 4) **Ensure that schools have a proportion of boxes of Naloxone deemed appropriate by the Department of Public Health.**
- 5) **Have free Naloxone available to San Francisco students, school faculty/staff, and the parents of youth, who wish to have some on hand in case they become a bystander in a fentanyl or drug overdose.**
- 6) **When distributing Naloxone, include a pamphlet with clear steps and images on how to administer Naloxone, as well as clear information on what an overdose looks like and the type of symptoms that can occur, and other local resources available.**
- 7) **Increase availability and accessibility of substance-use services, such as therapy, counseling, and information packets for parents about rehab and resources to support youth in San Franciscans who struggle with drug addictions.**

URGING SAN FRANCISCO TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY IN RESTORING BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to bear the responsibility of replenishing Bayview Hunters Point environmentally to sustain the community for future generations.

BACKGROUND

In California, BIPOC communities are five times more likely to live within a half-mile of a polluted place.¹⁴⁶ Bayview Hunters Point is currently a majority low-income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community where Black residents comprise $\frac{2}{3}$ of the area's population (20,000 black residents).¹⁴⁷ The Bayview community has faced a disproportionate amount of environmental and social injustice for many decades.



Before World War II, the area was mainly desolate, with only a few facilities; however, after the war, with high industrial demand, many black residents were forced to move into less adequate industrial housing to places such as Bayview. Due to racist policies such as redlining, many Black residents couldn't move to safer and less polluted neighborhoods. Thus they stayed in Bayview for many decades to come. According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Bayview is more at risk of health and environmental catastrophes than other communities, as 27% of the community is within a quarter-mile of the historic Hunters Point Naval Shipyard¹⁴⁸. With the high levels of toxins in this area, community members are at high risk of health concerns. Youth are especially at risk because their bodies are still developing and flooding can easily carry the contaminants onto sidewalks where children play.

The most pertinent issue Bayview faces is in relation to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. In 1867, the Navy obtained an 866-acre dock now known as Hunters Point Shipyard and used it as a facility for warships.¹⁴⁹ In 1946, the Navy transformed the shipyard into the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL), a laboratory for radiological experimentation and research, until its

¹⁴⁶ For These Black Bayview-Hunters Point Residents, Reparations Include Safeguarding Against Rising, Toxic Contamination. (2022, July 5). KQED. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://www.kqed.org/science/1979614/for-these-black-bayview-hunters-point-residents-reparations-include-safeguarding-against-rising-toxic-contamination>

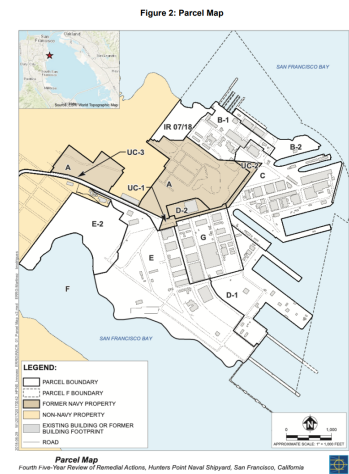
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¹⁴⁸ Buried Problems and a Buried Process: The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in a Time of Climate Change. (2022, June 14). SF.GOV. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2021_2022/2022%20CGJ%20Report_Buried%20Problems%20and%20a%20Buried%20Process%20-%20The%20Hunters%20Point%20Naval%20Shipyard%20in%20a%20Time%20of%20Climate%20Change.pdf

¹⁴⁹ For These Black Bayview-Hunters Point Residents, Reparations Include Safeguarding Against Rising, Toxic Contamination. (2022, July 5). KQED. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://www.kqed.org/science/1979614/for-these-black-bayview-hunters-point-residents-reparations-include-safeguarding-against-rising-toxic-contamination>

closure in 1967. By using the decontamination technique of ships by blasting them in dry docks, the waste and material were subsequently thrown into the ocean. These wastes consisted of radionuclides, heavy metals, and petroleum fuels, among other toxic compounds, which were buried in the water and soil.¹⁵⁰

In 1989 the Shipyard officially became a Superfund Site, and the Navy¹⁵¹ was commissioned to clean up the site. The Navy divided the site into parcels so that they could clean each one at a time and eventually pass the site to San Francisco. In 2000, the Navy proposed a \$100 million cleanup plan; however, accurate estimates were \$300 million. Therefore, there was a push for the passing of Proposition P, a nonbinding declaration that would call for the Navy to allocate sufficient funds to clean the site properly.¹⁵² This proposition passed. Later on, the first parcel (Parcel A) was transferred to San Francisco in 2004. By 2012, new luxury condos and housing were built; however, there is concern over possible future environmental problems and gentrification. Despite the laboratory's retirement in the late 20th century, the site is only partially cleaned and the improper disposal of the radioactive waste continues to cause detrimental damage to the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood. Bayview residents have most heavily seen and felt the effects of NRDL. Yet, the Navy still hasn't taken full responsibility.



There have been studies conducted locally within Bayview, however, community groups and Bayview residents are calling for the broader San Francisco to conduct studies to discover the correlation between the Shipyard and future environmental effects and its adverse impacts on Bayview residents' health.¹⁵³ There has been much speculation within the community on the role of the shipyard in disproportionate medical conditions occurring in Bayview. Still, the City has yet to take the initiative to uncover the truth.

On June 1, 2021, the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury released a report¹⁵⁴ on the implications of the risk of rising groundwater, and how that impacts the continuation of the Naval Shipyard clean-up project. According to Micheal Hofman, a jury foreperson, "Hunters Point is part of the biggest development in San Francisco since the 1906 earthquake... Yet neither the Navy nor the City is paying attention to what will happen there when sea level rise pushes the groundwater closer to

¹⁵⁰ United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). HUNTERS POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD SAN FRANCISCO, CA Cleanup Activities. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup>

¹⁵¹ Burns, Karpani. "The Quick, Dangerous, Dirty Development of the Hunters Point Shipyard." San Francisco Bay View, October 8, 2022. Accessed February 18, 2023. <https://sfbayview.com/2022/10/the-quick-dangerous-dirty-development-of-the-hunters-point-shipyard/>.

¹⁵³ Burns, "The Quick, Dangerous, Dirty Development of the Hunters Point Shipyard."

¹⁵⁴ "Buried Problems and a Buried Process: The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in a Time of Climate Change," June 14, 2022. Accessed February 18, 2023. https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2021_2022/2022%20CGJ%20Report_Buried%20Problems%20and%20a%20Buried%20Process%20-%20The%20Hunters%20Point%20Naval%20Shipyard%20in%20a%20Time%20of%20Climate%20Change.pdf.

the surface.”¹⁵⁵ The Civil Grand Jury report provided a general overview of the Naval Shipyard in Bayview. It included its findings and recommendations on how the city can contain and remedy the solution for short and long-term benefits.

In October 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Res. No 437-22 [Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - Buried Problems and a Buried Process: The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in a Time of Climate Change]¹⁵⁶ in response to the Jury’s report.¹⁵⁷ Although the resolution passed, there were limits on the findings and recommendations from the Civil Grand Jury that the Board of Supervisors supported. They only agreed to respond to recommendations R2, R3, F4, F5, and F6. They explicitly denied responding to R7, stating: “By March 1st, 2023, the Hunters Point Shipyard Cleanup Oversight Committee should prepare a report on its recommended requests for the Federal Facility Agreement signatories based on the groundwater study recommended in R1, and deliver that report to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Department of Public Health.”¹⁵⁸ The reason for not addressing this recommendation was unclear, however, they stated that they would create a short-term task force. Nevertheless, R1, R4, R5 and F1, F2, and F3 which focused on the reality of the harms caused by the Naval Shipyard, and go into depth on why thorough research is needed were not mentioned in the resolution. The entirety of the report must be adopted so beneficial change can happen.

The Bayview Hunters Point community is pushing for many other environmental and social initiatives, and the Naval Shipyard is only the beginning of their concerns. Organizations such as Greenaction are fighting against problems such as future gentrification.¹⁵⁹ Lennar and Five Points are developers that hope to build more than 10,000 upscale homes on the Shipyard. Build LLC also hopes to build 1,400 mainly upscale homes at India Basin, despite both sites being contaminated. Current Bayview residents would experience rising market prices furthering gentrification, and future residents would be at high risk of unhealthy and unsafe environments.¹⁶⁰

Bayview is also committing to internal pursuits to mobilize the community. Through the Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Task Force, which focuses on bringing together all types of community members to problem-solve pollutant complaints, and the Bayview Hunters Point Youth Environmental and Climate Justice Leadership Academy¹⁶¹, which encourages and teaches Bayview youth about current environmental issues their community is

¹⁵⁵ San Francisco Unprepared to Handle New Risks at the Hunters Point Superfund Site. (2022, June 1). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/2021_2022/Hunters%20Point%20Press%20Release.pdf

¹⁵⁶ File NO. 220721 Resolution No. 437-22. (2022, October 6). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0437-22.pdf>

¹⁵⁷ Investigate contaminated soil at Bayview Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. (2022, November 14). San Francisco Chronicle. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/article/investigate-soil-at-bayview-hunters-point-shipyard-17578677.php>

¹⁵⁸ File NO. 220721 Resolution No. 437-22. (2022, October 6). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0437-22.pdf>

¹⁵⁹ Bayview Hunters Point – Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. (n.d.). Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <http://greenaction.org/bayview-hunters-point/>

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¹⁶¹ Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. (2020, July 2). Bayview Hunters Point Youth Environmental Justice Air Quality Leadership Academy – Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://greenaction.org/2020/07/02/bayview-hunters-point-youth-environmental-justice-air-quality-leadership-academy/>

facing, Bayview Hunters Point is striving to make their voices heard and strengthen community involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) Implement the entirety of the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury report (including R1, R4, R5, R7, F1, F2, and F3) so that adequate environmental changes can be made for the benefit of all Bayview Hunters Point residents.
- 2) Create policies to contain and limit the expansion of future infrastructure developments to prevent gentrification in Bayview Hunters Point and conduct a thorough review of the possible contaminations in the water and soil.
- 3) Fund community initiatives, such as the BVHP Youth Environmental and Climate Justice Leadership Academy and the Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Task Force to include the community's voice and needs in the future development and endeavors associated with the Naval Shipyard and Bayview Hunters Point as a whole.

PROVIDE OVERSIGHT OF AND INVEST IN SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES FOR SAN FRANCISCO STUDENTS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for improved physical safety infrastructure, safe firearm information, and the addressing of sexual assault and harrassment at San Francisco schools.

Background

Schools have become a common target for gun violence in the United States, and California is not an exception to this trend.

In 2022, there were at least 176 instances of gunfire at school sites in the United States with a total of 57 people killed and 148 people injured. California schools saw 15 of these shootings, 3 of these deaths, and 15 of these injuries.¹⁶²

Physical Safety Infrastructure

California has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, and San Francisco has been at the forefront of the advocacy and implementation of these laws.¹⁶³

California Assembly Bill 3205,¹⁶⁴ passed and signed into law in 2018, requires that any school modernization project using money from the state's school facility bond program include installing install Security Locksets if they are not already present, building on 2010 legislation¹⁶⁵ requiring these locks in all newly built schools.

However, much of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), one of the largest school districts in California, still lacks basic safety infrastructure. There has been consistent advocacy from students, parents, and teachers to implement and improve existing physical safety infrastructure in SFUSD schools.

The Number One recommendation of the Sandy Hook Shooting Advisory Commission was to install Security Locksets which are door locks that can be locked from either side.¹⁶⁶ With these

¹⁶² <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/gunfire-on-school-grounds/>

¹⁶³ <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/resources/scorecard/?scorecard=CA;>
<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/state/california/>

¹⁶⁴ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB3205

¹⁶⁵ <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB211/2009>

¹⁶⁶

https://schoolsafety.vermont.gov/sites/ssc/files/documents/Resources/Sandy%20Hook%20Final%20After%20Action%20Report_2015.pdf (page 32)

locks, no active shooter in any school shooting has been able to breach a locked door,¹⁶⁷ which has saved countless lives.

In October 2021, the SFUSD Board of Education approved \$10 million of bond funds from Proposition A (2016)¹⁶⁸ to fund security infrastructure, including Security Locksets. Advocates including the SFUSD Student Advisory Council have been concerned about the installation of Security Locksets because as of 2023, multiple SFUSD school sites still lack Security Locksets, and a greater proportion of SFUSD school sites also lack other infrastructure such as public announcement systems, security cameras, and remote door buzzer systems.

. While the installation of Security Locksets is covered by current bond funds, funding for other infrastructure such as public announcement systems, remote buzzers, and security cameras have not yet been allocated by SFUSD. These safety measures are currently dependent on the passage of the next general obligation bond.

“The Uvalde massacre began after the 18-year-old gunman entered the school through a door that could only be locked from the outside then got inside a classroom that had a busted lock, experts testified Tuesday.

Securing doors has long been a focus of school safety drills, and the inability to do so during the May 24 attack that left 19 children and two teachers dead is raising alarms among experts and politicians.

When doors are not secure, “your first step, your first line of defense has now been eliminated,” said Ken Trump, the president of the National School Safety and Security Services.”

—AP reporting on the investigation into the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas¹⁶⁹

Safe Firearm Storage Information

Both the San Francisco Police Code¹⁷⁰ and California Penal Code¹⁷¹ require gun owners to store their firearms securely, so that minors cannot gain access to them. Most students who commit

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.ue.org/risk-management/premises-safety/secure-classroom-doors-to-stop-active-shooters/>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.sfusd.edu/bond/programs/2016>

¹⁶⁹

<https://apnews.com/article/politics-shootings-texas-school-safety-2c97d26b56e8b081aa725ee2235e4a3b>

¹⁷⁰ https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_police/0-0-0-8459 (San Francisco Police Code § 4512)

¹⁷¹

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=4.&title=4.&part=6.&chapter=2.&article (California Penal Code § 25100)

school shootings in the United States obtain their firearms from home or from the home of their close relative.¹⁷² Therefore, secure firearm storage is an essential component to preventing gun violence in schools.

In January 2022, the Youth Commission unanimously passed RESOLUTION NO. 2022-AL-06¹⁷³ which called on all San Francisco schools to send safe firearm storage information to students' families annually.

In August 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 452,¹⁷⁴ authored by Assemblymember Laura Friedman, which now requires public school districts and charter schools to send safe firearm storage home annually—including informing gun owners of their legal requirement to store their firearms securely so that minors cannot gain access to them.

Even with these requirements in place, there are still concerns that SFUSD is not sending this information home annually from every school site.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in Schools

Sexual assault and harassment, both between students and between adults and students, has been a consistent and pervasive issue in SFUSD schools, San Francisco charter schools, and San Francisco independent schools.

This is in no way a new issue, and issues of sexual assault and harassment in SFUSD have been “swept under the rug” for years.¹⁷⁵

According to the CDC, 1 in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape, and 1 in 3 women, and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place. According to HuffPost, Every 68 seconds, another American is sexually assaulted. From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services agencies substantiated or found strong evidence to indicate that 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse. A majority of child victims are 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18: 34% of victims of sexual assault and rape are under age 12, and 66% of victims of sexual assault and rape are ages 12-17.

In 2013 alone, colleges and universities reported over 5,000 forcible sex offenses in the United States. The Department of Education found that 41% percent of schools have not conducted a

¹⁷²

<https://www.michiganmedicine.org/health-lab/most-school-shooters-get-guns-home-and-more-weapons-a-re-there-pandemic>

¹⁷³ Can't find specific link but resolution is in supporting documents for 1/18/2022 FYC

¹⁷⁴ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB452

¹⁷⁵

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11859164/lowell-students-say-metoo-sexual-abuse-allegations-spark-reckoning-at-sf-high-school>

single investigation of a sexual assault complaint in the last five years, and only 10 to 25% of students found responsible for sexual assault were permanently expelled from campus. Approximately 80% of sexual assault crimes against undergraduate women go unreported to the police, and only 16% of student survivors of sexual assault received assistance from a victim services agency that provides aid in recovery, guidance through the criminal justice system, and/or assistance in obtaining restitution. A chronic lack of training in on-campus personnel hampers sexual assault investigations and disciplinary processes, often creating conditions that result in the retraumatization of survivors.

Regarding SFUSD, recent reporting from the San Francisco Chronicle¹⁷⁶ and the San Francisco Standard¹⁷⁷ shows allegations that an SFUSD athletic director at George Washington High School has been accused of sexual abuse, and despite law enforcement being contacted and an active lawsuit, he was permitted to “quietly resign.” Additionally, recent reporting from KQED shows that Lowell High School administration has neglected complaints and accusations made by colleagues and students accusing a teacher of sexual harassment who was able to continue to teach with only a verbal reprimand. These are only a few instances that highlight daily occurrences in our city’s educational institutions.

A California Public Records Act Request (Appendix #), SFUSD showed that only 5 out of 24 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints were investigated in 2022. In 2023, SFUSD received 6 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints filed, and all of these reports are still open as of January 30th, 2023. The lack of action and investigation further exemplifies the flaws of the reporting system and accountability throughout SFUSD.

In 2005, the San Francisco Youth Commission, in collaboration with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, produced a report on sexual assault and harassment in San Francisco schools entitled “*Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco Schools*,” which showed the primary factor preventing students from receiving needed resources and support is the disconnection between service providers and San Francisco students.¹⁷⁸ This report entailed a survey conducted by the Youth Commission, the Youth Leadership Institute, and the Student Advisory Council, which surveyed 6,000 high school students. The survey concluded that 48.4% of students are affected by sexual harassment on or off campus, exemplifying the urgent importance of this issue.

¹⁷⁶

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-high-school-athletic-director-who-abused-a-17406113.php>

¹⁷⁷

<https://sfstandard.com/education/george-washington-high-athletic-director-molested-student-groomed-classmates-for-years-lawsuit-claims/>

¹⁷⁸

https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/ftp/uploadedfiles/youth_commission/Documents_and_Publications/FINALSA%26HReport041205.pdf

The 2005 report included specific recommendations to city agencies on policies for victims of sexual assault and harassment:

like the Department on the Status of Women to (1) implement a student-oriented public service announcement campaign, 2) facilitate the outreach and use of CBOs with San Francisco schools, 3) aid schools in training teachers on student-to-student sexual assault and harassment, and 4) aid schools in enriching curricula for all grade levels), the Department of Public Health (1) that the department maintains or increase funding for student counseling, and 2) that the department expands the Intimate Partner Violence Screening Protocol to all public and private health clinics and hospitals), the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF) (distribute information about preventing and responding to sexual assault and harassment, including information on how to identify sexual assault and harassment, how to report incidents of sexual assault and harassment, and how to access counseling services).

Additionally, in April 2016, the Board of Supervisors passed, and then-Mayor Lee signed, legislation ([FILE NO. 150944, ORDINANCE NO. 89-16]) sponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim to create the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force and set out membership requirements for the ten seats. The Task Force made the overarching recommendations of 1) establishing an ongoing Task Force and staff to coordinate sexual assault prevention and response broadly, including on campus and in the broader community, and 2) fully implementing state and federal laws reflecting years of work to prevent sexual assault on campus and respond effectively when it occurs. The legislation made the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women responsible for providing administrative support and staffing the task force through a consultant who began in October 2016. A year later, the Department on the Status of Women put together the 71-page Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and Recommendations,¹⁷⁹ which did not include any specific recommendations for reducing sexual assault on all school campuses, failed to provide concrete recommendations and solutions, and interviewed only 18 of the 60,263 SFUSD students at the time.

Despite specific recommendations to city institutions, an ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors in 2016, and resolutions by previous Youth Commissions, the issue of sexual assault and harassment runs rampant in San Francisco schools, affecting youth citywide. In 2021, hundreds of students from at least eight San Francisco high schools walked out to protest against SFUSD's handling of sexual assault and harassment reports. San Francisco youth leaders also wrote a public letter soon after the walkouts to the then-SFUSD Superintendent Vincent Matthews, SFUSD Board of Education Commissioners, and SFUSD administrators to support and amplify demands from student activists at Lowell High School and Ruth Asawa San

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<https://sfgov.org/dosw/sites/default/files/Safer%20Schools%20Sexual%20Assault%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>

Francisco School of the Arts, as well as numerous other San Francisco middle and high schools. This issue cycles year after year and must be taken seriously.¹⁸⁰

Recommendations

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

Physical Safety Infrastructure

- 1) **Request a plan for school safety infrastructure upgrades** – a clear plan from SFUSD detailing school sites that need to be upgraded and a timely plan for those upgrades are needed to ensure student safety.
- 2) **Provide oversight on the implementation of this plan** – take any necessary actions (ex: holding a hearing) to ensure school site updates are implemented in accordance to SFUSD’s timeline.
- 3) **Partner with SFUSD to determine and meet funding needs for school safety infrastructure installation** – work with SFUSD to determine funding gaps for safety infrastructure installation and determine funding sources, with source options including direct grants or loans from the City and County of San Francisco and/or State of California

Safe Firearm Storage Information

- 4) **Ensure SFUSD is sharing safe firearm storage information** – take any necessary actions to ensure that SFUSD shares safe firearm storage information to families at the beginning of every school year.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in Schools

- 5) **Restart the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force** - including adequate youth voice and representation for middle and high school students (ages 10-18) and for college/higher education students (ages 18-24), as well as policymakers, volunteers, experts, parents, stakeholders, and survivors, and do so in consultation with the Youth Commission.
- 6) **Maintain the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force yearly** - continuously providing oversight and resources over the issue of sexual assault and/or harassment in schools.
- 7) **The Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee work with SFUSD** to adopt mandatory training for youth, education, and school site staff on the definitions of sexual harassment and assault, reporting procedures, supporting students, and identifying and preventing these crimes, and conducting them at least once per school year.

¹⁸⁰ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZK5jW0clsjUBpb47zAw2xdEsK0wp20Xf/view?usp=sharing>

- 8) **Gather data on the current state of sexual harassment/assault and to measure the future effectiveness of the Task Force** - the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability should gather data regarding sexual harassment and/or assault in reports specifically for San Francisco Youth Aged 15-25.

GRANT 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

GRANT 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for rights for 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections.

BACKGROUND:

The Youth Commission believes that granting 16 and 17-year olds the rights to vote will enable adequate representation for youth in government and boost overall civic engagement.

16 and 17-year-olds are ready to vote

16 and 17-year-olds have developed the intellectual maturity for measured, non-rushed, decision-making “i.e., cold cognition,” needed for making responsible voting choices.¹⁸¹ Additionally, 16 and 17-year-olds have more access to knowledge and information and more outlets for debating social and political issues than ever before.

16 and 17-year-old 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 at 16 or 17 if given the chance to.

Ensuring adequate representation in government

Youth are affected by decisions made by politicians, but aren’t adequately represented without the right to vote. Any society that demands tax payments on people’s labor, but refuses them a say in politics is fundamentally unjust.

Many elected officials do not take the voices of youth In 2018, young activists went to an elected official’s San Francisco office to rally the “Green New Deal” to which the official dismissively replied, “I’ve been doing this for 30 years, I know what I’m doing.” When activists advocated their rights as constituents, they told the 16-year-old, “Well, you didn’t vote for me.” This portrays how youth aren’t adequately recognized as constituents in the government, and elected officials continuously fail to recognize their needs.

The decisions made by the government today define the future city that young San Franciscans will inherit, and it is essential that youth are recognized and have a voice in the political process.

Increasing overall civic engagement

Countries that have partial voting rights for 16 and 17-year-olds, such as Argentina, Austria, and Germany, all outrank the United States in voter turnout.¹⁸²

¹⁸¹ <https://perma.cc/6PYM-CEM3>

¹⁸² <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/11/01/turnout-in-u-s-has-soared-in-recent-elections-but-by-so-me-measures-still-trails-that-of-many-other-countries/>

It is proven that the ages of 16 and 17 are perfect for building a life-long habit of voting. Vote16USA stated that “A person who votes in the first election they are eligible for is likely to continue voting consistently, while someone who doesn’t will take several years to pick up the habit. It is clear that age 16 is a better time to establish a new habit than age 18.”

Turning 18 marks a year of transition, teens transitioning to adults are beginning college, moving out, and starting new jobs. This busy time in one’s life interrupts the beginning of the habit of voting. Granting 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote allows for more youth to begin the habit of voting earlier and boost overall voter turnout.

Youth Commission advocacy

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Vote 16.

In [2015](#), the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1415-AL-04, which urged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to lower San Francisco’s legal voting age to sixteen in municipal and school district elections. After the resolution, Supervisor John Avalos introduced a charter amendment in March [2015](#).

In 2016, Youth Commissioners and other student leaders continued to urge the Board of Supervisors to support a charter amendment lowering San Francisco’s legal voting age to [sixteen](#). In the first-ever joint Board of Supervisors and Youth Commission meeting, 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 these efforts and a small number by which Vote16 lost showed that young people can unite and engage their peers, decision-makers, and the public on a complex [issue](#).

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee sponsored a charter amendment to put Vote16 on the 2020 Ballot, which passed the Board of Supervisors to be placed on the ballot unanimously.¹⁸³ Supervisor Yee said that “There’s no question that young people are capable of changing the world for the better. Will we stand alongside them and let their voices be heard?”

Vote16 lost by less than 1% in the 2020 election, earning more than 205,000 votes. In comparison to 2016, the 2020 Vote 16 campaign garnered 30,000 more votes, and lost by a smaller margin. Vote16 USA stated that “This result represents an increase in support compared to when this question was first on the ballot in San Francisco in 2016, and shows that public opinion can shift with meaningful campaign efforts.” The Youth Commission is hopeful and optimistic for the future of Vote16.

Recommendations:

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

- 1) **Place a charter amendment on the ballot to lower the voting age to 16** – put to voters the option to lower the voting age in municipal, school district, and community college district elections to 16 on the November 2024 election ballot.

¹⁸³ https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/bag063020_minutes.pdf

- 2) **Urge California legislators to place a constitutional referendum on the ballot lowering the voting age to 16** – urge California Senators and Assemblymembers to put the option to lower the voting age in state elections to voters.
- 3) **Host another Board of Supervisors and Youth Commission joint hearing** – to understand recent developments of the Vote16 efforts around the country, understand the effects of lowering the voting age, and allow for other young San Franciscans to express their frustrations around the national tension between the government and the “voiceless” young people they govern.

INCREASE EXISTING FUNDING FOR WELLNESS PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION IN SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INCREASE EXISTING FUNDING FOR WELLNESS CENTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Increase existing funding for wellness programs, resources, outreach, and education in San Francisco public schools including more professional development for school staff on wellness practices and frameworks such as healing-centered care, youth-anchored peer to peer counseling.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, the San Francisco Wellness Initiative was launched to improve the health and well-being of all SFUSD students. Wellness centers were implemented in SFUSD schools to make mental and physical health care services readily accessible to all SFUSD students, and to ensure students feel a stronger sense of safety and belonging.¹⁸⁴

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated to expand and fund SFUSD wellness centers. The 2006-2007 Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priority Proposals advocated to expand Wellness Centers to the city's Middle and High Schools. The 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priority Proposals advocated to preserve mental health programs and use add-backs to hire more wellness center staff.

A KidsData survey¹⁸⁵ found that 30.2% of Black SFUSD students in grades 7, 9, and 11 experienced depression-related feelings, along with 29.7% of Hispanic/Latino students, and 22.4% of Asian students.

These issues, and disparities, only increased with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.¹⁸⁶ Pandemic school closures deprived students from seeing classmates, and being a part of organizations, teams, and programs which offered them joy and purpose. After the pandemic, SFUSD

¹⁸⁴ "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

¹⁸⁵ <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/266/san-francisco/results#ind=&say=&cat=27>

¹⁸⁶ "Pandemic Shines Light on Mental Health Crisis Facing SF Students." *Pandemic Shines Light on Mental Health Crisis Facing SF Students - San Francisco Examiner*, 6/4/2021 *Imperial County, California*, 4 June 2021, <https://imperial.networkofcare.org/mh/news-article-detail.aspx?id=123812>.

committed to supporting students' mental health and wellness, as well as increasing access to health and wellness services for middle school students.¹⁸⁷

The Youth Commission recognizes the need for a larger investment in mental health services coming out of the pandemic. In 2021, the Youth Commission supported legislation advocating for more mental health services for San Francisco youth in [RESOLUTION NO. 0102-010; MEMORANDUM SUPPORTING BOS FILE NO 210042].¹⁸⁸ In 2022, The Youth Commission passed a resolution advocating for an expansion in Mental Health services for youth from the District 7 Youth Council.

Wellness Center Issues

Currently, many SFUSD students do not access the wellness centers for a number of reasons. The Youth Commission found that there is a lack of diverse representation in the wellness centers.¹⁸⁹ Statistics show that Black students are the least likely to report having a trusted adult at school and the most likely to claim that their school mental health professional cannot understand their situation due to racial or ethnic differences.¹⁹⁰ The Chinese Progressive Association's 2017 survey (of nearly 1000 SFUSD students) found that the SFUSD wellness centers currently do not meet the cultural and linguistic needs of its students and families.¹⁹¹

Additionally, the Youth Commission found that there is a disconnect between services and students, as students do not feel comfortable accessing the wellness centers. Students do not want their parents to know they are meeting with a school counselor, and are concerned that school staff will treat them differently or provide them with fewer opportunities at school.¹⁹² The CPA survey showed that 36% of lesbian and gay students reported that concerns about family and friends finding out about their mental health issues barred them from accessing the wellness centers.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁷ "SFUSD Expands Access to Health and Wellness Supports for Students." *SFUSD*, <https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2021-08-06-sfusd-expands-access-health-and-wellness-supports-students>.

¹⁸⁸ *Youth Commission*. Hearing on the City's reimbursement practices and maximizing funding for mental health services from State and Federal programs, including, but not limited to, Mental Health Medi-Cal administrative activities; and requesting the Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Juvenile Probation Department, San Francisco Unified School District, and community-based mental health providers to report. (2021, February 26). Retrieved February 19, 2023, from <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/210042%20Youth%20Commission%202021-RBM-09.pdf>

¹⁸⁹ "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹⁹⁰ Modan, Naaz. "Survey: Third of Students Reluctant to Seek Help for Mental Health Issues." *K*, 23 May 2022, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/survey-third-of-students-reluctant-to-seek-help-for-mental-health-issues/624200/>.

¹⁹¹ "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹⁹² "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

¹⁹³ "Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign." *Chinese Progressive Association*, Youth Movement of Justice and Organizing, <https://cpasf.org/ourhealinginourhands/>.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- **Increase funding to hire diverse staff.**
 - Hire diverse staff, therapists, and social workers to serve the needs of students of color and immigrant students,
- **Invest in preventative resources**
 - Strengthen existing preventative resources, including mindfulness, community schools, restorative practices, and peer resource programs.
- **Value student voice and skills as leaders and decision-makers.**
 - Increase the voice and decision-making power of students and local school staff by forming a mental health committee comprising students and local staff to include them in district and school decisions on wellness infrastructure, assessments, staff hiring, curriculum development, and financing.

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IN SAN FRANCISCO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IN SAN FRANCISCO

Support the development and implementation of life skills programs in San Francisco public schools to help students build confidence in communication and cooperative & collaborative skills, find new ways of thinking and problem-solving, socialize, make new friends, recognize the impact of their actions and behaviors, and prepare for adulthood.

BACKGROUND

Life skills preparation for adulthood is crucial, yet is often overlooked in education. In schools across the United States, young adults graduate from high school with limited knowledge regarding how to navigate through the expectations of the real world and lack social-emotional skills. Research indicates, “*life skills education bridges the gap between basic functioning and capabilities. It strengthens the ability of an individual to meet the needs and demands of the present society, and helps in dealing with issues in a practical manner.*”¹⁹⁴ Although there are several educators who feel that teaching life skills in the classroom are necessary, the frustration of needing to adhere to state standards and lack of time often interferes with implementation.¹⁹⁵

Education has one basic goal: to equip students to be autonomous, responsible members of society. Though standards and curriculum evolve over time, one constant is the need for students to develop life skills to help them navigate adulthood.¹⁹⁶

Communication skills, goal setting, food preparation, budgeting, and time management are frequently supposed to be “picked up along the way” as youth grow up. However, because of today's ever-changing ‘home life’ structure, many of today’s youth lack a support system at home to teach them the life skills required to flourish beyond graduation.¹⁹⁷

Life skills, as defined by UNICEF¹⁹⁸, are psychosocial talents for adaptive and constructive conduct that help individuals to deal effectively with the demands and obstacles of daily life. Society cannot expect children to be equipped for college, jobs, and, most importantly, life if they are never taught to precisely use and foster these talents.

¹⁹⁴ Prajapati, R., B. Sharma, and D. Sharma. “Significance Of Life Skills Education”. *Contemporary Issues in Education Research (CIER)*, vol. 10, no. 1, Dec. 2016, pp. 1-6, doi:10.19030/cier.v10i1.9875.

¹⁹⁵ “Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for ... - Ed.” *Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for Facilitating Life Skills in Secondary Education in the United States*, 3 Mar. 2018, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1172806.pdf>.

¹⁹⁶ “Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for ... - Ed.” *Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for Facilitating Life Skills in Secondary Education in the United States*, 3 Mar. 2018, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1172806.pdf>.

¹⁹⁷ “Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for ... - Ed.” *Preparation for Adulthood: A Teacher Inquiry Study for Facilitating Life Skills in Secondary Education in the United States*, 3 Mar. 2018, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1172806.pdf>.

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Children’s Fund. (2015). *The Investment Case for Education and Equity*. UNICEF Education Section, New York, NY.

Rateau, Kaufman, and Cletzer (2015)¹⁹⁹ share this worry, stating: “In this highly competitive and fast changing world, it is becoming increasingly important that college graduates enter the market with the skills necessary for long-term success. Nonetheless, multiple studies show that today's college graduates frequently enter the workforce unprepared to fulfill the needs of today's companies.”

For decades, policymakers have underfunded home economics programs, which educate students about cooking and personal finance. However, because local governments do not understand the value of life skills workshops in molding teens' lives, they have slowly diminished in student's curriculum. .²⁰⁰

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It is apparent that the personal finance and home economics instruction in the United States high school system, as a whole, is severely lacking. If the United States' government wants to see a future with financially educated and self-sufficient individuals who understand, for example, the meaning of money and other fundamental life skills, they must step up and take action to ensure this.

There is broad agreement among education professionals that the industrial model of education on which the United States has depended for more than a century cannot, in its current shape, educate youth to prosper in the future.²⁰¹

The United States is second only to Switzerland in terms of per-student spending in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), but we rank significantly below average in both arithmetic proficiency (#22) and reading abilities (#17).²⁰²

Unfortunately, there is a growing gap between the contents and methods we educate students and the knowledge, skills, competencies, and attitudes that American students will need to compete and flourish in the twenty-first century. The United States is not effectively preparing children for a world that demands higher levels of problem-solving, deeper levels of knowledge, and a broader range of skills and competencies. In addition, the United States is not educating students about the types of professions and occupations that define the knowledge economy. This is an issue that affects not just our youth, but also our cities, economy, and country as a whole..²⁰³

¹⁹⁹ Rateau, R. J., Kaufman, E. K., & Cletzer, D. A. (2015). Innovative Classroom Strategies That Prepare College Graduates for Workplace Success. *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 56(3), 52-68. <https://doi.org/10.5032/jae.2015.03052>

²⁰⁰ Osio, Sofia. “Schools Should Teach Mandatory Life Skills like Taxes and Home Economics.” *THE EAGLE EYE*, THE EAGLE EYE, 6 Jan. 2021, <https://eagleeye.news/18322/opinion/editorial-schools-should-teach-mandatory-life-skills-like-taxes-and-home-economics/>.

²⁰¹ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰² “Education at a Glance 2021 : OECD Indicators.” *Education at a Glance 2021 : OECD Indicators* | *OECD iLibrary*, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/cde73ce1-en/index.html?itemId=%2Fcontent%2Fcomponent%2Fcd73ce1-en>.

²⁰³ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

As a result, new educational models are emerging in San Francisco and across the United States, changing the way students learn and teachers educate. Significant shifts in educational approaches to teaching and instruction, such as the implementation of the Common Core State Standards; a new national focus on science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM) education; and a departure from the No Child Left Behind federal policy, are opening up exciting new pathways for learning.²⁰⁴

Additionally, there is a growing consensus that educating students about the demands of 21st-century living should include the development of a broader variety of social and emotional skills and dispositions that have historically not been an explicit emphasis of public education. Meanwhile, new technologies are beginning to significantly alter what is possible in the classroom, generating unprecedented potential for more individualized and real-world learning and changing the education paradigm and nurturing learning in previously unthinkable ways.²⁰⁵

However, for this new paradigm to be successful, there needs to be a template and a road map for the San Francisco Unified School District.²⁰⁶

According to research and experiences, genuine educational solutions exist in the "and." When we integrate college and professional preparation, we prepare every student to explore a complete spectrum of postsecondary opportunities, whether trade school, college, or other credentialing programs.²⁰⁷

Historically, the great majority of American students have been confronted with the word "or." These students were either deemed college material or not college material at some point throughout their high school experience. As a result, students were encouraged to attend college or prepare for a trade school.²⁰⁸

Nevertheless, separating college-entry coursework from professional technical education exacerbates the limitations of either paradigm. When college and professional preparation are combined, they reinforce each other, resulting in a much stronger equation with significant advantages for our students, communities, and economy. That is the power of plus, and it is the motivating premise behind the Linked Learning Model, a systematic approach to education that assists students in preparing for college, careers, and life.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁴ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰⁵ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰⁶ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰⁷ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰⁸ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

²⁰⁹ *SFUSD Vision 2025*, SFUSD, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iioeEzCBfCZgGb3xihXvSh1j1AmTHLec/view>.

The ideal reinvented SFUSD education system would connect student learning not just to the demands of life in a global society but also to the possibilities and imperatives of living, working, and flourishing in the city of San Francisco, which is undergoing tremendous transformations of its own.

We have the capacity to build brighter futures for not only our children but also for the city, by connecting San Francisco's public education system more intimately to the city's rising needs and possibilities.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

The 2009-2010 Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priority Proposals advocated aligning education and career development opportunities through training classes. The Youth Commission reported that over 84% of students want more life skills or job training classes, in line with the Department of Children, Youth, and their Family's needs assessment that suggests aligning education and career development opportunities.

The 2010-2011 Youth Commission's Budget and Policy Priority Proposals further advocated for more coordination between School Districts and the City on School-to-Career Development. The Youth Commission requested that the City and County of San Francisco fund a full-time grant writer to support CTE in the SFUSD, as well as that the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) continue to coordinate its youth-focused workforce development programming with the SFUSD's CTE—particularly in light of the new, upcoming CTE policy that will guide the District's workforce projects in the coming years.

RECENT UPDATES

In 2015, the Board of Education authorized career and internship opportunities in San Francisco public schools. The SFUSD Career Pathways Program allows high school students to explore and enter high-wage, high-demand occupations in a variety of sectors through work based learning experiences while simultaneously preparing for post-secondary education and developing soft skills such as teamwork and critical thinking.

The goal is that by 2025, the SFUSD Career Pathways Program will have expanded throughout the district.

- 1.

Recommendations

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

- 1) **Expand the Linked Learning Model throughout SFUSD by implementing a more robust curriculum.** The Linked Learning model is a strategy that combines hard academics, technical training, work-based learning, and student support to create a stronger link between the classroom and the real world.
- 2) **Increase opportunities for work-based learning.** Through job shadowing, paid internships, and apprenticeships, students may gain adequate knowledge of the business while also creating a professional network.
- 3) **Improve learning environments to foster innovation and collaboration.** Students will obtain a sense of what it is like to learn and work in the twenty-first century by using specialized equipment, trade tools, and classroom settings that foster teamwork and project-based learning.

Integrate targeted assistance for underserved students. Ensure that all of San Francisco's students receive the experiences, resources, and support they need to achieve their future ambitions, as well as obstacles that may arise to participate are removed.

INCREASE VOTER PREREGISTRATION EFFORTS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Department of Elections to increase outreach and information about preregistration opportunities to students and schools, the City and County to conduct further research on the effectiveness of current outreach efforts and ways to increase voter preregistration, the development of a comprehensive plan to implement the goals outlined in Board of Education Resolution 162- 23A3, and continue funding the Department of Election's Youth Voter Outreach.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, only 52% of Californians ages 18-24 were registered to vote and only 8% voted. This was 20 percentage points below any other age category.

The [California Students Vote Project](#) was established in 2016 by the Secretary of State—in partnership with then-Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, now-Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, CalPIRG, California Common Cause, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in response to low youth voter turnout. This project marketed information on pre-registering to vote and running a nonpartisan voter education campaign towards high school and college students. During the 2018 election, 61.6% of eligible 18-24-year-olds were registered and 27.5% voted.²¹⁰ This sharp improvement demonstrates the impact government initiatives can have on mobilizing an underrepresented group of voters.

However, while youth voter registration and turnout have increased, it is still far below all other age groups.²¹¹ Continued voter reregistration efforts can address these low youth voter turnout. Anthony Fowler of the University of Chicago found²¹² that voter preregistration increases voter turnout by 2.1 percentage points.²¹³ Another study found that in the 2020 election, counties with pre-registration had a 9-point higher youth voter turnout rate than those without.²¹⁴ According to Path to the Polls, preregistration can increase young voter turnout by up to 13 percentage points.²¹⁵

SAN FRANCISCO EFFORTS

²¹⁰ <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote>

²¹¹ <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote>

²¹² <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/elj.2017.0436>

²¹³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/08/upshot/youth-voting-2020-election.html>

²¹⁴ <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/impact-voting-laws-youth-turnout-and-registration>

²¹⁵ <https://frontiergroup.org/resources/path-polls/>

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. Today, 16 and 17-year-olds can pre-register to vote in California, yet they are often unaware of this and pre-registration levels have remained relatively low.

Twice a year, the San Francisco Department of Elections holds a High School Voter Education Week, where High School voter ambassadors help register and pre-register students to vote.²¹⁶ 1,595 young San Franciscans have pre-registered to vote through this program.²¹⁷ However, this number may not reflect the total number of San Francisco youth who have pre-registered through California's online system. According to The Civics Center, San Francisco's voter preregistration is around 15%.²¹⁸ This does not reflect the large percentage of youth who would register or pre-register if given the opportunity or support.

In 2016, the SFUSD Board of Education adopted Resolution 162-23A3 – Encouraging Students to Exercise their Voting Rights, urging every SFUSD high school American Democracy class to teach the voting process and significant political parties in San Francisco. It also required schools to provide students with forms to register to vote. The resolution also resolved the District to partner with the City Registrar of Voters to develop information sheets outlining the legal requirements of voter registration and preregistration, and to partner with nonpartisan organizations to host voter registration drives at all high schools at least once annually.²¹⁹ It is unclear whether these goals have been implemented district-wide, how they are being tracked, and/or whether they have been effective.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

In the Youth Commission's 2017-2018 Budget and Policy Priorities, they requested the Department for Children, Youth, and Their Families to require grantee agencies serving older youth to offer the option of pre-registering to vote to youth program participants, funding for a permanent, youth-led peer-outreach effort to increase voter preregistration, and increased funding for youth-voter outreach and pre-registration efforts at the Department of Elections. Additionally, in 2016 the Youth Commission hosted a Young and Future Voters' Forum with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, SFUSD Peer Resources, Generation Citizen, and Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) to encourage youth voter engagement and pre-registration. In 2017, the Youth Commission attended a Board of Education Curriculum and

²¹⁶ <https://sfelections.sfgov.org/high-school-poll-worker-and-ambassador-programs>

²¹⁷ https://www.sfelections.org/tools/election_data/index.php

²¹⁸ <https://thecivicscenter.org/blog/2021/9/3/democracy-under-delta-a-summer-of-voter-preregistration-in-california>

²¹⁹ <https://rpnorton.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/doc-0007.pdf>

Program Committee meeting with the Student Advisory Council and gave suggestions on how to move pre-registration efforts forward at the School District. The Youth Commission also 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- 23A – Encouraging Students to Exercise Their Voting Rights.²²⁰

In an ongoing 2023 Youth Commission survey with almost 500 responses from youth across the city, 60% of 122 youth ages 16-17 answered that they were not pre-registered to vote and 51% of youth ages 16-17 who answered they were not registered also answered they did not know they could pre-register. 62% of 317 youth ages 16-17 did not know who their Supervisor was prior to completing the survey, and 32% of 162 youth over 18 answered they did not know who their Supervisor was prior to completing the survey.

When asked whether they felt prepared to vote in a local election, only 30% of 162 youth over 18 answered “agree” and only 9% answered, “strongly agree.” 62% of 317 youth 17 and under answered “strongly disagree”, “disagree” or “neutral” when asked whether they thought San Francisco provided many opportunities for youth to be educated in local government. While the Youth Commission acknowledges that the survey is still in progress, current survey data reflects that a significant percentage of San Francisco youth feel unprepared to vote locally, unsupported in engaging in local government, and unaware of opportunities to preregister to vote.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- **Continue funding the Department of Election’s Youth Voter Outreach** - This includes High School Voter Education Week, Student Poll Worker Opportunities, Preregistration outreach, and Department of Elections Tours.
- **Direct the Department of Elections to increase outreach and information about preregistration opportunities to students and schools** – Ensure youth are aware of voter engagement opportunities.
- **Conduct further research on the effectiveness of current outreach efforts, and ways to increase voter preregistration.**

²²⁰<https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/Final%20YC%20Budget%20%26%20Policy%20Priorities%20for%20FYs%2017-18%20and%2018-19%20%2816-17%20Term%29.pdf>

- **Follow up on and support the development of a comprehensive plan to implement the goals outlined in Board of Education Resolution 162- 23A3, and extend lessons on the voting process and political parties to Advanced Placement (AP) United States Government, which some students take in replacement of American Democracy classes.**

San Francisco LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety Funding Request

San Francisco LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety Funding Request

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges for funding allocation to protect community centers serving queer youth and assist them in their security needs.

Background

LGBTQIA+ community centers have recently seen a major increase in threats, vandalism, and harassment. Much of this increase can be directly attributed to an increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ laws and political rhetoric, that particularly target queer youth, being introduced and passed in state legislatures across the United States. Threats and harassment specifically targeting youth programs and services have been especially prevalent.²²¹

- 71%** of centers have experienced hate and/or harassment over the past two years
- 56%** of centers reported digital harassments and threats
- 54%** of centers reported offline harassment and threats (examples: vandalism, hate mail, etc.)
- 38%** of centers reported both online and offline threats and/or harassment

Unfortunately, San Francisco LGBTQIA+ community organizations have also experienced similar threats and harassment. Centers with youth programming and services have been particularly targeted. The LYRIC Center for LGBTQIA+ Youth, which provides youth-specific services like community groups and advocates for queer and questioning youth, received five bomb threats and numerous instances of online harassment between April and December 2022.²²² LYRIC's Executive Director Laura Lala-Chavez told the Youth Commission:

"Since April, LYRIC has received three bomb threats at its headquarters. It had never fielded one before in its three-decade-long history. We are living in unprecedented times, specifically for those of us who are or work with Trans and Non Binary youth. I am deeply committed to keeping

²²¹ <https://www.mapresearch.org/file/Community-Centers-2022-report-2.pdf> (Pg. 17)

²²² <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Elon-Musk-is-leaning-into-transphobia-17649577.php>;
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/police-lgbtq-youth-nonprofit-was-evacuated-after-bomb-threat/>;
<https://www.ebar.com/story.php?315868>

our LGBTQQ+ community safe not only as executive director of LYRIC but also in my identity as a trans nonbinary leader of color and resident of San Francisco. We hope that through our work with the LGBTQIA+ Coalition as well as enhancing our coalition citywide, we can begin to create the infrastructure needed to keep our community safe."

In 2022, with the support of the Office of Transgender Initiatives, these organizations formed the San Francisco LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety to effectively coordinate regarding new safety measures and advocate for greater financial support for San Francisco LGBTQIA+ organizations. The Coalition currently includes (but is not limited to): San Francisco Unified School District, Department of Public Health, University of California San Francisco, Human Rights Commission, Office of the Mayor, State Senator Wiener's Office, District 8 Supervisor Mandelman's Office, Dimensions Clinic, Lyon Martin Community Health Services, Huckleberry Youth Services, San Francisco Police Department, and Community Activists Roma Guy and Rev. Megan Rohrer.

The Coalition has requested a grant of \$350,000 from the 2023-2024 Budget for critical safety funding. This funding would go towards building and improving technical and physical safety infrastructure, implementing safety practices and systems, providing risk reduction efforts to LGBTQIA+ organizations, hiring Community Ambassadors to support ongoing safety and risk assessments, hiring Safety Consultants to help the Coalition build a city-wide mechanism of support for LGBTQIA+ organizations and other institutions experiencing threats, and providing emergency funds, support, and security assistance to organizations under threat or attack due to their work for LGBTQ+ rights.

Recommendations

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

support and grant the San Francisco LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety's critical funding request, and that the implementation of these programs be overseen by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development or the Human Rights Commission. We have linked the proposed budget breakdown below.

- 1) **Support and grant the LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety's funding request** – include this critical funding request (Appendix #) and have the implementation of these programs be overseen by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development or the Human Rights Commission .

Proposed Budget Breakdown (approximations)

San Francisco LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety

\$15,000	Physical Security infrastructure for organizations <i>Examples: security systems, public space lighting.</i>
\$40,000	Organizational Site Assessments with Safety Education Consultants and Critical Response Training
\$25,000	Ongoing Community Safety Trainings for LGBTQIA+ Centered Organizations
\$183,200	3 full-time Community Ambassadors
\$30,600	1 part-time LGBTQIA+ Coalition on Safety Coordinator <i>To organize, lead and facilitate safety coalition objectives, deliverables</i>
\$56,400	Emergency Response Fund <i>Provides emergency assistance; security, opportunity, and advocacy rapid response grants to organizations under threat or attack</i>

The Youth Commission would like to thank the LYRIC Center for LGBTQ Youth for their assistance in the creation of this Budget and Policy Priority.

CREATE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LGBTQ+ AND SEXUAL HEALTH CURRICULUM FOR SFUSD SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH TEACHERS

On March 12th, 2020 Mayor Breed issued San Francisco's first stay-at-home order.²²³ After the pandemic began, many San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) teachers began retiring at record numbers, with teacher retirements increasing 26% in the first year alone.²²⁴ This was the second-highest teacher retirement rate in SFUSD history, and now leaves schools short-staffed for core classes.

This especially affects an already pressing issue, which is the lack of Health Education in SFUSD middle school, which has a disproportionate effect on LGBTQ+ youth. A key component to Health curriculum for middle and high school students relates to different kinds of relationships and sexual orientations, and somewhat covers gender identity.

SFUSD does not have any dedicated middle school Health educators. In order to try to fulfill mandated requirements, what often happens is a PE or Science teacher is made responsible for teaching the Health Education curriculum. Many of these teachers are already overburdened and lack time to also teach Health Education. This can result in Health Education being under-prioritized and/or not occurring at all, meaning that SFUSD middle schools are oftentimes not adhering to state-mandated requirements. This is especially harmful for LGBTQ+ youth who need positive representation of queerness in schools to feel safe and accepted.

This is represented in the GLSEN 2019 National School Climate Survey.²²⁵

- 68.7% of LGBTQ students experienced verbal harassment (e.g., called names or threatened) at school based on sexual orientation, 56.9% based on gender expression, and 53.7% based on gender.

²²³ <https://sf.gov/news/sf-responds-coronavirus-outbreak-stay-home-order>

²²⁴ <https://sfstandard.com/education/record-numbers-san-francisco-braces-for-teacher-shortage-amid-burnout/>

²²⁵ <https://www.glsen.org/research/2019-national-school-climate-survey>

- 25.7% of LGBTQ students were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 21.8% based on gender expression, and 22.2% based on gender.

Hiring teachers with proper health education credentials and designating more time and priority towards health education, a crucial aspect of education, will substantially help LGBTQ+ youth.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM

The SFUSD middle school health curriculum has much room to grow. Middle school is a time where youth are starting to explore their identity, which means that they need the proper education and representation to reflect their own identities. With ready access to the Internet, most youth can look up anything that they want to know, which can often lead to misinformation about queerness, and can also lead to youth being sucked into anti-LGBTQ+ spaces which is both harmful towards them and LGBTQ+ students.

Due to an increase in anti-LGBTQ sentiments nationwide, queer youth are put under vast amounts of stress. A new survey from The Trevor Project²²⁶ shows that “58% of LGBTQ youth, including 71% of transgender and nonbinary youth, feel angry about new policies that ban teachers from discussing LGBTQ topics in the classroom. Among trans youth, 59% feel sad and 41% feel stressed.” Most queer and transgender youth are going into health classrooms feeling apprehensive, therefore, the curriculum in those classrooms should represent and comfort youth, rather than exacerbate these negative feelings.

HEALTH CURRICULUM PILOT PROGRAM

10 years ago, SFUSD started an ethnic studies pilot program to collect data on the positive outcomes of having an ethnic studies class. The program was conducted during the 2010 - 2011 and the 2013 - 2014 school years. Once the pilot program was completed, SFUSD found the GPA's of the students who took the ethnic studies class rose by an average of 1.4 grade points.

In order to create a health curriculum that is the most useful for students, the Youth Commission suggests creating a comprehensive middle school health education pilot program. Unlike other surveys or data sets, the information from a pilot program would be more specific and directly correlated to SFUSD.

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<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/>

On June 3rd, 2019, the Youth Commission passed [RESOLUTION NO. 1819 – AL – 19]²²⁷ urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to declare their support for Assembly Bill 493 to mandate in-service training for teachers and staff in schools grades 7 to 12, inclusive, on school site and community resources to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students.

On November 4th, 2019, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted in support for BOS File No. 191031, with questions regarding implementing sensitivity training to youth service providers who work or whose work directly affects LGBTQ+ youth.

To educate ourselves on LGBTQ+ issues in SFUSD, the Youth Commission interviewed one middle school teacher and one social worker at SFUSD. Taskforce members heard first hand accounts of the lack of qualified and trained health educators in SFUSD schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) **Implement an all-inclusive middle school sexual health education curriculum for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender LGBTQ youth** – Most LGBTQ middle schoolers feel uncomfortable and unwelcome in schools, which can have a severe influence on their health and well-being. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth require and deserve to have a comprehensive and helpful sexual health curriculum.
- 2) **Hire health teachers with the proper credentials and/or give teachers the incentive to get the proper health credentials** – It is crucial that queer youth are educated by trained health teachers that can manage to focus year-round on the health education of middle schoolers.
- 3) **Urge the State of California to make the health education state mandates more comprehensive towards LGBTQ+ youth.**
- 4) **Gather feedback relating to the health education curriculum from SFUSD employees. As well as running a pilot program in an SFUSD school with the goal of creating a more comprehensive and useful health education curriculum.**

SOURCES

Mojadad, Ida “public school teacher retirements jumped by 26% in the first year of the pandemic” sfstandard.com

<https://sfstandard.com/education/record-numbers-san-francisco-braces-for-teacher-shortage-amid-burnout/>

Trevor News “58% of LGBTQ youth, including 71% of transgender and nonbinary youth, feel angry about new policies that ban teachers from discussing LGBTQ topics in the classroom. Among trans youth, 59% feel sad and 41% feel stressed.” thetrevorproject.org

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/>

GLSEN “68.7% of LGBTQ students experienced verbal harassment (e.g., called names or threatened) at school based on sexual orientation, 56.9% based on gender expression, and 53.7% based on gender. 25.7% of LGBTQ students were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 21.8% based on gender expression, and 22.2% based on gender.” glsen.org

https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NSCS19-FullReport-032421-Web_0.pdf

ESTABLISH SAFE SPACES IN SCHOOLS AND MAKE RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS MORE ACCESSIBLE

BACKGROUND

While an increase in acceptance of and support for LGBTQ+ youth within the past two decades has improved conditions, we are now seeing a backlash to this progress on a national scale. Unfortunately, the stories of transgender bathroom bills and “Don’t Say Gay” laws have had a negative effect on queer students and emboldened a vocal minority to continue homophobic and transphobic bullying and harassment. San Francisco schools are not an exception to this increase in harmful rhetoric.

A safe environment is key to educational success. It is essential LGBTQ+ students have support and affirming spaces in schools so they can be safe and be successful.

LGBTQ+ STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES IN SFUSD

The San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) Board of Education approved a counseling program for LGBTQ high school students in May 1990. In September 1990, the Student Support Services Department launched Support Services for Gay Youth. Within two years, these services expanded beyond high schools to serve students, families, and staff at all SFUSD school sites.

The 1996 Board of Education Resolution #610-8A6 recognized Support Services for LGBTQ Youth and mandated further changes. These changes include expanding curriculum, educational materials, awareness and the implementation of the Anti-Slur Policy, and professional development for all staff in LGBTQ youth needs. Transgender staff and students received additional board support (#5163).

LGBTQ+ HARASSMENT

64% of LGBTQ+ respondents to ADL's 2021 Online Hate and Harassment survey were harassed online. LGBTQ+ respondents reported more overall harassment than other demographics for the third year in a row.

In a poll, LGBTQ+ individuals who experienced harassment were asked if they had changed their gender identity. 79% of "yes" respondents reported online harassment, while 77% reported severe online harassment (physical threats, sustained harassment, stalking, sexual harassment, doxing, or swatting). 52% of "no" respondents reported online harassment, while 36% reported severe harassment (comprising of sexual harassment, stalking, physical threats, swatting, doxing and sustained harassment).

ANTI-LGBTQ+ LEGISLATION

Hateful anti-transgender discourse sometimes occurs in echo chambers, when extreme views and language become common. In this ecosystem of hatred, it's hard to identify who inspires whom, but it's impossible to deny the links between social media rhetoric and policy language. Too many lawmakers use hateful words to legitimize discrimination and justify legislation that hurts vulnerable people.

Over 35 states adopted anti-transgender laws between January and June of 2021.

Most of these measures ban transgender youth from playing sports or receiving gender-affirming medical care. Other legislation would make it difficult or impossible to modify a birth certificate's sex designation, compel schools to tell parents/guardians of a child's gender identities, or require businesses to post signs if they allow any gender to use any toilet.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho (2020), Mississippi, Montana, Tennessee, and West Virginia have passed laws banning transgender youth from sports. These pieces of legislation differ in class level and target transgender girls and women or all adolescents. South Dakota governor Kristi Noem issued two executive orders prohibiting transgender girls from gender-specific sports.²²⁸

Tennessee and Arkansas both banned gender-affirming medical care for transgender and gender non-conforming minors, and there are further attempts to limit access to gender-affirming care across the country.²²⁹

Whether or not these pieces of legislation pass or withstand judicial challenges, they send the harmful message that people in authority are committed to policing transgender people based on obsolete preconceptions. This is problematic since anti-transgender hate and bigotry are still prevalent and police and civilian violence against transgender and nonbinary individuals—especially transgender people of color—is rampant. There is a direct link between transgender and nonbinary people's mental health to discrimination and lack of civil rights.

Young transgender people are especially exposed to this surge of anti-transgender measures. With this dramatic increase in anti-transgender legislation and rhetoric, 21% of transgender and nonbinary kids have tried suicide, and 52% have seriously contemplated it, according to the 2020 Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. When persons use their chosen names and transgender adolescents have access to gender-affirming hormone treatment, suicide ideation, and behavior diminish.

YOUTH COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

²²⁸

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/29/982474861/south-dakota-governor-bans-transgender-girls-from-sports-teams-by-executive-order>

²²⁹

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/diversity-inclusion/3789757-here-are-the-states-planning-to-restrict-gender-affirming-care-next-year/>

In the 2015 - 2016 San Francisco Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priorities, the 10th priority was to “Implement Efforts to Track LGBTQIQ Youth In City Services and Fund Cultural Competency Training Efforts”, which was “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”. One of the main recommendations in this priority was implementing Youth Sensitivity Trainings for youth service providers who work or whose work directly affects LGBTQ+ youth.

On May 7th, 2018, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted to support LYRIC in urging the Board of Supervisors to fund “Middle School QQ groups”, which were support groups for trans and queer-identified middle schoolers of color.

On November 4th, 2019, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted in support of BOS File No. 191031 [Hearing - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data - FY2018-2019], with questions regarding implementing sensitivity training to youth service providers who work or whose work directly affects LGBTQ+ youth.

On July 5th, 2022, the San Francisco Youth Commission passed a resolution supporting Senate Bill 107, proposed by Scott Weiner in the California State Legislature. The resolution supported protecting and granting refuge to transgender and gender non-binary kids and their parents fleeing states separating children from their parents, criminalizing the parents, or criminalizing people coming to CA to receive gender-affirming care, and urged the Board of Supervisors to support SB 107.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) **Create safe spaces for people to meet friends and allies and to learn leadership skills:** Creating Safe Spaces in schools, neighborhoods, or after-school activities will assist LGBTQ adolescents in feeling valued and supported.
- 2) **Connect with organizations (such as LYRIC and LGBT Center) and form clubs to extend school-based resources for LGBTQ+ youth:** Include discussions on LGBTQ+ role models, gender, and sexual identity in-class curriculum and school events.
- 3) **Assess school climate to guide improvement strategies:** utilizing tools like the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) school climate survey, teachers and other school employees (e.g., cafeteria workers, bus drivers, security) may build capacity