

[Children and Families Council; San Francisco Children and Families Plan]

CHARTER AMENDMENT

PROPOSITION _____

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by adding Section 16.126, to create a Children and Families Council, which shall prepare and maintain a San Francisco Children and Families Plan for making the City more supportive of children and families.

The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 4, 2014, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by adding Section 16.126 to read as follows:

NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*; deletions are ~~*strike through italics Times New Roman*~~.

SEC. 16.126. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COUNCIL.

(a) Preamble.

(1) San Francisco is historically compassionate towards its most vulnerable residents: our children. It has shown this through its progressive, innovative and creative ideals centered on social equity for our children and families.

(2) To continue our legacy as champions of children, it is imperative for San Francisco to further invest in the children and families of our city.

(3) The people of the City and County of San Francisco previously supported the passage of the unprecedented Children’s Amendment in 1991 and the Public Education Enrichment Fund in 2004. While these initiatives dedicated funding to services, the level of unmet needs in providing critical programming and services still falls short.

(4) In order to advance a citywide vision and long-term set of goals, City leaders, departments, the San Francisco Unified School District, and community partners must come together to align needs with services; coordinate across agencies; and develop a strategy.

(5) The “Children and Families Council,” comprised of department heads from the City and the School District, and community stakeholders will build a platform that will place children and families at the center of every policy decision.

(6) With the Children’s Fund and the Public Education Enrichment Fund scheduled for renewal in November 2014, as a City, we must grasp this opportunity to develop a long-term citywide vision, create a set of strategies, coordinate services, and identify shared outcomes to not only ensure that all children and families here are able to thrive, but to invite other families to be raised here.

(7) The percentage of children under the age of 18 in San Francisco has steadily declined. As of 2010, 13.4 percent of our total population was under the age of 18, the lowest of any major city nationwide.

(8) Families continue to leave San Francisco, especially those families in the low to moderate income brackets.

(9) San Francisco’s children population is declining with over 10 percent of 1-4 year olds leaving the city and fewer children moving in.

(10) The decline of children and families in our City costs the community in lost revenue from less money spent on the local economy.

(11) This measure will build a collaborative approach around the following points of unity:

(A) Ensuring equity, and giving priority to children and youth with the highest needs;

(B) Empowering parents, youth, and community stakeholders by giving them a voice in the implementation of this citywide vision; and,

(C) Building public trust through transparency and accountability in the oversight of decisions and funding allocations.

(b) **Creation; Purpose.** There shall be a Children and Families Council (“the Council”) to advise the City on the unmet needs, services, and basic needs infrastructure of children and families in San Francisco through the creation of a Children and Families Plan for the City. The Plan will develop priorities, program goals, and best practices for addressing those needs. The Council shall craft a Citywide vision, and identify associated goals and strategies, to maximize support for children and families, including development of a basic needs infrastructure that aligns and coordinates the services to children and families provided by City departments, the San Francisco Unified School District, and community-based partners.

(c) **Composition.** The Mayor shall chair the Council, and shall invite the Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District to serve as a co-chair of the Council. Other members of the Council shall include the heads of City departments with responsibilities for services to children and families, as well as members of the community. The Mayor shall also invite the heads of School District divisions identified by the Superintendent to serve as members of the Council.

(d) The San Francisco Children and Families Plan.

(1) No later than May 1, 2016, and every fifth year thereafter, the Council shall prepare and adopt a Children and Families Plan for the City, which shall include a comprehensive assessment of City policies and programs, both public and private, addressing the needs of children and families in San Francisco, and policy-level recommendations for making the City more supportive of children and families. The Council shall emphasize solicitation and incorporation of community input in the development of the initial Children and Families Plan and subsequent Plans.

(2) No later than October 1, 2017, and each year thereafter, the Council shall conduct a noticed public hearing to review the City's overall progress under the current Plan and to update interested parties on the status of the next Plan.

(3) All City Departments shall consider the Children and Families Plan in developing their own strategic plans to make the City more supportive of children and families.

(e) **Continued Autonomy of City and School District.** The Council will be a policy planning body dedicated to improving coordination between the City and its departments, the School District and its departments, and community-based organizations funded by those agencies. While the Council will make recommendations to the City and County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Unified School District, the City and the School District will each retain its full independence and authority regarding programmatic and funding decisions.

(f) **Evaluation.** Every five years, the Controller shall review the Council's operations and the Plan. The Controller shall submit the results of the review to the Council, the Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Board of Education. The Council shall consider the results of the Controller's review in the preparation of the next Plan.

(g) **Implementation.** The Board of Supervisors shall further provide by ordinance for the structure, functions and support of the Council, consistent with the provisions of this Section.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: _____
Thomas J. Owen
Deputy City Attorney

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