

**YOUTH COMMISSION**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

**CC:** Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Victor Young, Clerk, Rules Committee, Board of Supervisors  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director, Board of Supervisors  
Christina Goette, Program Manager Shape Up SF Coalition Backbone, San Francisco Department of Public Health  
Paul Monge, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Rules Committee Chair

**FROM:** 2020-2021 Youth Commission

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020

**RE:** Youth Commission Recommendations for Seat 6 on the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC)

Pursuant to Administrative Code, Chapter 5, Article XXXIII, Sections 5.33-2, seat 6 on the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee is reserved for “[a person who is under 19 years old at the time of appointment and who may be a member of the Youth Commission, nominated by the Youth Commission and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. If the person is under legal voting age and unable to be an elector for that reason, the person may hold this seat, but upon reaching legal voting age, the person shall relinquish the seat unless he or she becomes an elector, in which case the person shall retain the seat]”

In order to fulfill their duties outlined in the administrative code concerning recommendations for seat 6, Youth Commissioners conducted an outreach and application process in which they reached out to youth-serving community organizations across San Francisco to help identify youth interested in serving on the SDDTAC. Youth Commissioners considered applications at their Wednesday, September 23, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Youth Commissioners reviewed the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax legislation (BOS File No.160729), working carefully to select youth who they believe can provide valuable insight on the diverse experiences and challenges of young people in San Francisco, as well as bring a systems-informed and solution-oriented lens to the work of the SDDTAC.

Youth Commissioners are pleased to share their **recommendation of Kiana Sezawar Keshavarz for appointment consideration to seat 6 on the SDDTAC**. Youth Commissioners found that Kiana is well positioned to bring unique and important insights to the work of the SDDTAC through their own experiences and challenges as a young San Franciscan, as well as their dedication to improving health outcomes for young people in our City. Their full application is attached for your review.

*The San Francisco Youth Commission recommends Kiana Sezawar Keshavarz, a 16 year old student at Lick Wilmerding, for the Youth Seat on the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory*

*Committee. Through her application and the short speech she gave at the Youth Commission's September 28th, 2020 meeting, Kiana demonstrated both her lived experience and community-based knowledge surrounding the issue of food inequality in San Francisco, as well as her immense passion for equity for all San Francisco youth. Kiana has her own lived experience of growing up in a food desert, and is able to grasp and communicate how classism and racism contribute to food inequity, and nutrition related healthcare concerns for communities of color. Having a mother who worked as a nutrition educator in SFUSD, Kiana also saw first hand how nutrition education can give students and their families the opportunities and education they need to make nutritional eating choices, and how the defunding of these programs can lead to students to choose the less healthy but more accessible options for food.*

*Kiana has a lot of experience working to combat the issue of food inequality in communities across San Francisco in various capacities from working in her neighborhood's community garden, Visitacion Valley Greenway, volunteering at her middle school's food bank, which provides fresh and healthy food for students, as well as volunteering at the greater SF-Marin food bank. As a commission, we believe that Kiana's background and life experiences, as well as her knowledge of her own community and her demonstrated commitment to fighting for equitable food options for all communities in San Francisco makes Kiana a strong candidate for this position.*

Once again, Youth Commissioners would like to thank members of the Board for passing legislation providing for the inclusion of a youth seat on the SDDTAC, and look forward to continuing to support the process of confirming youth appointments to the committee. We hope you will inform our office if commissioners can be of further assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact Austin Truong at (415) 554-6446 or [Austin.Truong@sfgov.org](mailto:Austin.Truong@sfgov.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.