

Budget & Policy Priorities for 2018-2019 & 2019-20

SF Youth Commission
City and County of San Francisco



2018

**Education is our right.
We will not give up the fight!**



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INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The diversity and charm of San Francisco sets our city apart from the rest. Our rich diversity is a mark of pride for San Franciscans. Yet, we are currently facing heartbreaking issues. The gap between the wealthy and the poor is increasing rapidly, as mental health, addiction, and homelessness is worsening. The youth of San Francisco are growing up in a discouraging and turbulent time, as the federal government continues to attack our policies.

Fear, frustration, and anger have united our youth voice. In this year alone, we have united in youth walkouts held for the victims of school shootings, the Women's March, and mobilizing our community organizations. We have demonstrated that young people have the motivation and passion for change.

As members of the San Francisco Youth Commission, it is our chartered duty to advise the Mayor and Board Of Supervisors on issues facing youth in this city. Created in 1995, former Supervisor Alioto first brought the idea of a youth voice to the Board and then to the ballot (Prop F) and won with 60% of the vote. Some of our largest accomplishments of the past 23 years include Free Muni For Youth, Prop F (2016, proposing youth eligibility in city elections), and more. Our duty to identify the unmet needs of San Francisco's youth is an honor and vital piece of preserving a youthful and family-friendly city.

Every year the Youth Commission indicates youth-focused policy priorities and brings them to the Board of Supervisors in our Budget Policy and Priorities. Each priority includes recommendations for the Board Of Supervisors to include in the annual budget. This year's Budget and Policy Priorities list the issues we find important and tangible for our Board to help San Francisco youth.

As Chair of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I am proud of former and current commissioners for their dedication to our city. The youth voice is an inclusive and important part to any city because we are the leaders of the future. Working on various issues and ideas with my fellow commissioners has been an incredible experience. The passion and dedication of San Francisco Youth does not just come from the Youth Commission, but from various groups such as South Of Market Community Action Group (SOMCAN), Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), Young Women's Freedom Center (YWFC), Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), Project What! and so many other great organizations have provided a formidable youth voice to shape youth-serving policy in the City. Together, as a youth voice, we present these changes for your consideration and action as outlined in the Youth Commission's Budget and Policies Priorities for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, 2019-2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chiara Veronese Lind". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Chiara Veronese Lind, Chair, 2017-2018 Youth Commission

Youth Commission Organizational Structure

Full Youth Commission

By Charter, must meet once a month; in practice, meets twice a month on the first and third Mondays, room 416 of City Hall.

Executive Committee

Determines full YC agenda, oversees legislative activities & operations

Chair – Chiara Lind (Mayor Lee)

Vice Chair – Lisa Yu (D3)

Legislative Affairs Officers – Lily Marshall-Fricker (D2)

Communications and Outreach Officer – Bahlam Vigil (D11)

Communications and Outreach Officer – Paola Robles Desgarenes (D8)

Justice & Employment Committee

Determines Youth Commission Vote on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

Chair: Zak Franet (Mayor Lee)

Vice Chair: Jonny Mesler (Mayor Lee)

Members: Bahlam Vigil (D11),
Mike'l Gregory (D10)

Civic Engagement & Immigration Committee

Chair: Jarrett Mao (Mayor Lee)

Vice Chair: Arianna Nassiri (D5)

Members: Conna Chen (D4),
Paola Robles Desgarenes (D8), Felix
Andam (Mayor Lee),
Owen Hoyt (Mayor Breed)

Housing, Environment & City Services Committee

Chair: Claire Amable (D6)

Vice Chair: Kristen Tam (D7)

Members: Lily Marshall-Fricker (D2),
Lisa Yu (D3),
Elsie Lipson (D1), Mampu Lona (D9),
Chiara Lind (Mayor Lee)

Staff

Kiely Hosmon - *Director*

Naomi Fierro - *Youth Development Specialist*

SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

2018-2019; 2019-2020

Table of Contents

Priority 1: Continue to Expand Alternatives to Incarceration for 18-24 Year Olds	5
Background	5
Recent Updates.....	6
Recommendations	7
Priority 2: Implement Environmental Education for San Francisco Youth.....	9
Background	9
Recommendations	12
Priority 3: Redesign Privately Owned Public Open Spaces to fit the Needs of Children, Youth and Families	13
Background	13
Recent Updates.....	16
Recommendations	16
Priority 4: Protect and Prioritize Communities’ Access to Sunlight and Open Space	18
Background	18
Recent Updates.....	20
Recommendations	21
Priority 5: Pedestrian and Night Safety for Children, Youth, and Families	22
Background	22
Recent Updates.....	23
Recommendations	24
Priority 6: Improve Voter Turnout and Civic Engagement by Pre-Registering SFUSD 16 and 17 Year Olds	26
Background	26
Recent Updates.....	27

Recommendations	30
Priority 7: Lower the San Francisco Municipal Voter Age and Recommit to the Vote16	
Campaign	32
Background	32
Recent Updates.....	32
Recommendations	34
Priority 8: Allocate \$60,000 towards California ID Fee Waivers for Youth.....	35
Background	35
Recommendations	36
Priority 9: Continue Implementing Efforts to Protect Undocumented Families from Deportation	
.....	37
Background	37
Recent Updates.....	38
Recommendations	38
Priority 10: Increase Emergency Shelter Options and Permanent Exits from Homelessness for	
Transitional Age Youth.....	39
Background	39
2015 TAY Housing Plan	40
Updates.....	44
Recommendations	45
Priority 11: Reduce The Negative Societal and Economic Impacts of Alcohol Density on Youth	
and Families By Strengthening Current Regulations.....	47
Background	47
Recent Updates.....	49
Recommendations	49

PRIORITY 1: CONTINUE TO EXPAND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR 18-24 YEAR OLDS

Advocate for greater investment in collaborative court programs, legal services, housing resources, and behavioral health services to reduce youth incarceration and recidivism, and to prevent expansion of jail facilities for Transitional Age Youth, 18-24 year olds.

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Youth Commission continues its push from 2015 for alternatives to incarceration for Transitional Age Youth (TAY).

In late 2015, the Board of Supervisors considered, and ultimately rejected, amendments to the 10-year capital plan, authorization of certificates of participation, and acceptance of state monies that would have authorized the construction of a new rehabilitation detention facility to replace the county jails at 850 Bryant. Due to the high level of interest from young San Franciscans on this issue, the Youth Commission held its own after school hearing, at which dozens of young people who were directly affected by the criminal justice system testified, and Youth Commissioners ultimately voted to oppose the construction of a new jail. In December 2015, President London Breed introduced a resolution creating a working group to plan for the permanent closure of County Jails 3 and 4. This working group's goal was to develop a plan that will provide effective and humane investments in mental health; identify what new facility or facilities are needed; and seek to maintain San Francisco's eligibility to use State Public Works Board financing for those facilities. As part of this, the working group explored ways of reducing the overall demand for jail space.

Young adults make up the highest number of bed days of any age group in our county jails, yet copious research indicates young adults' brains are still developing and may be well positioned to benefit from rehabilitative approaches. We believe that examining alternatives to incarceration for young adults should be central to the effort to create alternatives to incarceration in San Francisco and close County Jails 3 and 4.

Out-of-detention alternatives and Restorative Justice efforts in the juvenile system have reduced the average daily incarcerated population amongst juveniles by over 37% from 2011 to 2015¹.

¹ "Juvenile Probation Department." City and County of San Francisco, http://sfgov.org/juvprobation/sites/default/files/2015AnnualReport_Statistics.pdf

22% of San Francisco's adult jail system cases are Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)², yet TAY are only 8% of San Francisco's population. San Francisco's incarcerated population is disproportionately made up of African American and Latinx³ youth. Prison environments are no place for young, growing minds to develop and can negatively impact their mental growth. Research has demonstrated that young people's brains are still developing until the age of 25 which leaves them vulnerable to develop mental health related illnesses⁴. San Francisco has prided itself on its historic values of diversity and equity, and yet, in 2015, African Americans represented over 55% of the incarcerated population, while only comprising 5.3% of the overall population⁵. 85% of people incarcerated in San Francisco county jails are awaiting trial and have not been convicted. In January of 2017, the State of New Jersey recently eliminated its cash bail system to address these disparities, resulting in a 20% decrease in its incarcerated population. Previous Restorative Justice and collaborative court models policy enacted to support juveniles and TAY have demonstrated reduced costs and recidivism rates. The Young Adult Court, which began in 2015, has closed its doors to new cases three times in the last year due to capacity, and is expected to be immediately full again after expanding its services to a second court day in 2018. The Youth Commission unequivocally supports San Francisco youth who are involved in the justice system in their efforts to restore their lives outside of detention.

RECENT UPDATES

In recognition of its early successes, the Young Adult Court has recently been expanded by the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) to add a second calendar day.

The San Francisco Youth Commission has always supported system-involved youth in and out of the City of San Francisco. More recently, the Youth Commission passed a motion on April 3rd, 2017 urging the Board and Mayor to hold a hearing on alternatives to incarceration for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)⁶. On February 5, 2018 the Youth Commission voted in support of Resolution 1718-AL-06 [Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform]⁷ authored by the Justice and Employment Committee and cosponsored by The Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice and Project WHAT!, urging the Board of Supervisors to explore implementing additional

² "San Francisco Youth Commission Justice & Employment Committee Draft - Minutes 5:00-7:00 PM Monday November 27, 2017 ." Youth Commission, 27 Nov. 2017."

³ In order to be more inclusive to different and varying gender identities, we are replacing the traditional "a" and "o" with an x

⁴ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." USA Today, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/

⁵ Justice, Vera Institute of. "Incarceration Trends." Vera Institute of Justice, trends.vera.org/rates/San-Francisco-CountyCA?incarcerationSource=black&incarceration=disparity

⁶ "San Francisco Youth Commission"

⁷ <http://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1718-AL-06-%20Resolution%20in%20support%20of%20Youth%20Justice%20Reform.pdf>

Restorative Justice practices for TAY, and to reject capital expenditures to renovate/build new county jails, (an action which the Board of Supervisors has previously endorsed⁸). The San Francisco Examiner spoke to the work and impact of this resolution and its push for justice.⁹

In the months of March and April 2018, the Justice and Employment Committee gained support on this resolution from several community based organizations and other commissions, including:

- The Young Women's Freedom Center
- Coleman Advocates for Youth
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- The Office of Transgender Initiatives
- The Police Commission
- The Human Rights Commission
- The Commission on the Status of Women

As of March 2018, one of our priorities regarding housing for justice involved TAY has been flagged in the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project, which is a Department of Housing Urban Development funded project and is creating a plan to meet the needs of justice involved TAY.

In February 2018, the Justice and Employment Committee met with District 1 Supervisor Sandra Fewer to request a Budget and Legislative Analyst (BLA) Report and is now in the process of receiving information that will give details on the cost to the city for justice system involved youth vs. the costs of alternatives to incarceration. With this material, the committee will infer, estimate, and analyze prior and current data to create effective recommendations about alternatives to incarceration for TAY to be included in the next budgetary cycle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission has long been invested in the well-being of the justice involved youth and we urge:

- 1. The Board of Supervisors' to hold a hearing to discuss alternatives to incarceration for 18-24 years olds in San Francisco's county jails.** This hearing can explore promising approaches currently in use in the Young Adult Court; existing barriers to young adults' successful enrollment in or graduation from the Young Adult Court; insights learned from the Juvenile Probation Departments' successful efforts to develop alternatives to out-of-home detention for youth; and approaches being used by other

⁸ <http://www.ktvu.com/news/sf-supervisors-unanimously-reject-proposal-for-new-240-million-jail>

⁹ <http://www.sfexaminer.com/youth-commissioner-pushes-sf-reduce-incarceration-rate-young-adults/>

states and counties to better address the needs of 18-24 year olds involved in the criminal justice system. We thank Supervisor London Breed for introducing File No. 180396 [Hearing - Work Group to Re-Envision the Jail Project - Annual Report].

2. **The Board of Supervisors and Mayor to expand the Young Adult Court.** We thank the Department of Children, Youth and their Families for expanding the Young Adult Court, and encourage other ways to expand the court to be able to handle all qualifying cases.
3. **The Board of Supervisors and Mayor to increase funding for in-patient behavioral health services that are TAY-specific.** We thank former Mayor Ed Lee for the budgetary investment during last cycle, and we advise to continue investing funding until the needs of the population are met.
4. **The District Attorney restructure how it charges young adults for nonviolent felonies such as phone thefts.** Many young people are being charged with robbery that don't have an explicit act of violence. We ask the District Attorney to consider charging these types of cases more along the lines of felony theft, or larceny.
5. **The Judiciary to enact policies reforming the bail system, such as to better serve low income communities.** We applaud recent efforts to implement "ability to pay" models within the bail system, whilst simultaneously recognizing that it is but a step in the right direction. We urge lowering the bail schedule in addition to "ability to pay".
6. **The Mayor and Board of Supervisors to complete the TAY Housing plan, and coordinate with the TAY Collaborative Court to ensure participants have access to safe and supportive housing.** Recent efforts have greatly expanded the TAY housing network, but we still have far to go.
7. **Judges create a walk-in calendar for persons with bench warrants to reduce bookings for individuals turning them in for "Failure to Appear" type offenses.**
8. **The Board of Supervisors to reject any financing, debts, or certificates of participation to reopen, construct, or renovate existing jails and instead invest any aforementioned capital expenditures on programming to support at-risk, and justice involved, Transitional Age Youth.**
9. **The Board of Supervisors to explore including Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) 18 to 24 years old in the Juvenile Jail and Probation systems in order to receive more appropriate services and protect them from further victimization and involvement in crime.** In San Francisco, almost 50% of homeless youth ages 18 to 24 identify as LGBTQ; experiencing homelessness puts young people at risk of engaging in the criminal justice system, and justice-involved youth are more likely to be vulnerable in a variety of ways. In order to receive more age-appropriate services, justice-involved young adults 18-24 should be cared for by professionals experienced in working with youth.

PRIORITY 2: IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH

Urging the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to collaborate with the Department of the Environment to offer environmental education to Department of Children, Youth and Their Families grantee organization staff and youth participants.

BACKGROUND

Under the Trump administration, climate change has been denied, and measures have been taken to reverse the work many previous politicians have implemented. This includes legislation such as Obama's Clean Power Plan to cut carbon emissions which improve our commitment to protecting the environment. President Trump has taken measures to provide less funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and has appointed many climate change deniers and fossil fuel supporters to his cabinet such as the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt. With an administration like his, our country's environmental priority has sunk, and is very alarming as our youth are growing up in a country whose leadership gives very little care for the environment. In order to combat this, we must educate our youth on what our city does to support reducing climate change, and how everyone can do their part to reduce their carbon footprint.

As stated in the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance, BOS File NO. 081404, "all persons in San Francisco must separate their refuse into recyclables, compostable," and will divert "zero waste to landfill or incineration by 2020."¹⁰ According to San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE), "zero waste means that we send zero discards to the landfill or high-temperature destruction, and instead, reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost waste." In order to get the closest we can to reaching this goal, the San Francisco Youth Commission is urging for more education for our next generation of San Francisco leaders, the youth, in order to make sure that everyone is aware of how to sort waste, and of our city's environmental goals. Education is key to ensuring everyone understands the importance of sorting waste and how to do so, and we are recommending the expansion of environmental education by connecting the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) with the SFE school education team to hold environmental workshops for grantees at their mandatory workshops, and to also connect the department of the environment to the grantees to offer their workshops to the grantee organizations.

¹⁰https://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/policy/sfe_zw_sf_mandatory_recycling_composting_ord_100-09.pdf

DCYF reaches out to 43,581 youth who live in San Francisco; a large amount of whom are low income youth, and 55% of the children are youth between ages 11-17, which is the target age for more environmental education. This is because education decreases as youth advance in their educational paths. Most environmental education is in elementary school, with the least being offered in high school. Students tend to forget how to sort waste when they get to high school, proving the need for more education to older youth. This connection is so important because many youth participate in afterschool DCYF funded activities that can provide a short environmental workshop, that schools cannot find the time to do. Therefore, this connection is vital to ensure that San Francisco youth know how to, and are motivated to, sort waste in order to ensure our city's devotion to improving and taking our part to care for the environment.

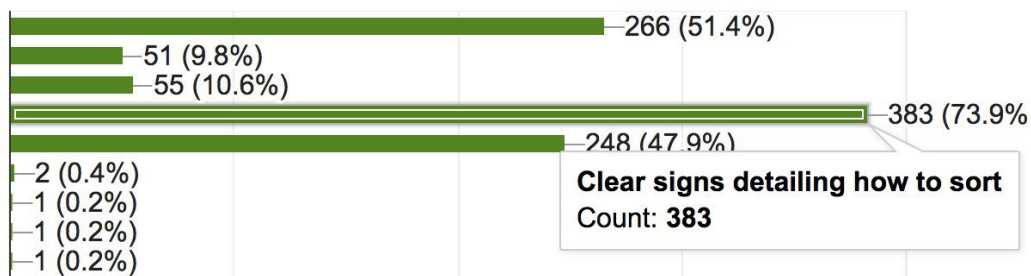
From March 9, 2018 to March 25, 2018, the Youth Commission's Housing, Environment and City Services Committee conducted a city wide environmental awareness survey. Over 500 youth in San Francisco responded to this survey, and many expressed the need to learn why waste sorting is important, and how to sort waste, supporting why it's crucial to educate youth.

Taken from the 2018 Youth Commission Environmental Awareness survey asking youth in San Francisco how what would make it easier to sort your waste?

What would make it easier to sort your waste? (check all that apply)



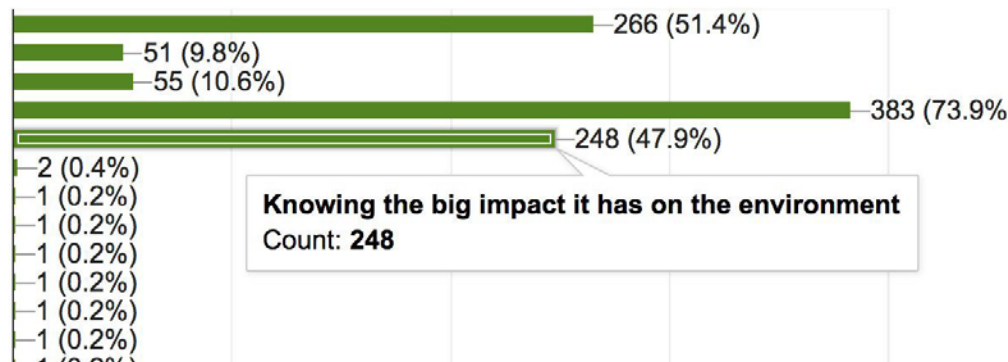
518 responses



What would make it easier to sort your waste? (check all that apply)



518 responses



Open responses from the same survey:

One youth said, "I think emphasizing the reasoning and importance of sorting waste can motivate people to actually do it."

Recently, there have been legislative actions taken by the Youth Commission, Board of Supervisors, Department of Youth, Children and Their Families, and the Department of the Environment:

- March 5, 2018- the Youth Commission voted to support Resolution 1718-AL-08 [Resolution Supporting Additional Environmental Education and Awareness for San Francisco Youth]¹¹ that was sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Tam
- March 16, 2018- Commissioner Tam presented the resolution to DCYF Executive Director, Maria Su, where she confirmed that she and the Executive Director of SFE, Debbie Raphael, are working together to connect SFE's school education team with DCYF's recipients
- April 17, 2018- Supervisor Norman Yee, with co-sponsorship from Supervisor Katy Tang, Supervisor Jeff Sheehy (and post April 17th sponsorship from Supervisor Sandra Fewer and Supervisor London Breed) introduced Resolution No. 180395 [Supporting Additional Environmental Education and Awareness for San Francisco Youth] which utilized Commissioner Tam's resolution. By introducing this resolution at the Board of

¹¹<http://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1718-AL-08-%20Resolution%20supporting%20additional%20Environmental%20Education%20and%20Awareness%20for%20San%20Francisco%20Youth.pdf>

Supervisors level, it shows our city's commitment to spreading environmental awareness to San Francisco residents

- April 19, 2018- Commissioner Tam was informed that DCYF is partnering with SFE to train San Francisco's Summer Meal Program managers on our city's zero waste goals and how to properly sort waste, and are also going to teach meal recipient program participants how to properly sort waste. In addition, they are connecting with DCYF by providing Youth Works interns, DCYF grantees, a one hour environmental training. This ensures that these young people who are working in city departments are aware of our city's goals and sorting rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to offer environmental trainings led by the Department of the Environment to the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families' grantee organizations, and encourage grantees to host environmental workshops for their youth participants.** Youth Commissioners would like to thank Dr. Maria Su for her commitment to providing environmental education via DCYF grantees each year as well as thank SFE Director, Debbie Raphael, and her SFE staff for happily willing to connect with DCYF and for providing trainings and workshops.

Also, the Youth Commission thanks Supervisor Yee for introducing Resolution No. 180395 [Supporting Additional Environmental Education and Awareness for San Francisco Youth] that supports this recommendation. We hope the Board of Supervisors will support SFE and DCYF in ensuring that they connect to implement more environmental awareness.

- 2) **The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to coordinate with the Department of the Environment and their School Education Team to provide these trainings for DCYF grantees and their youth participants.**

PRIORITY 3: REDESIGN PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC OPEN SPACES TO FIT THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Urge for education, outreach, community engagement, and enforcement of current guidelines for Privately Owned Public Open Spaces to make them more accessible and youth and family friendly in the neighborhoods that need them most.

BACKGROUND

POPOS stands for Privately Owned Public Open Space. POPOS are open spaces that are privately provided and privately maintained, typically within new office developments in the downtown area. In 2008, the SF Planning Department conducted a “Strategic Analysis Memo on Open Space” which requires 5.5 acres of open space per 1,000 people throughout the City, regardless of demographics who live there¹². However, in Western SoMa, it is reported that there is 0.046 acres per 1,000 residents.

POPOS have traditionally been plazas, terraces, and seating areas with plants that often attract downtown office workers during lunchtime, however, their stated purpose is to provide open space for the public. As office buildings downtown increased, open space decreased. A good example of POPOS can be found in Bernal Heights of District 9, in which a small park was created by Bridge Housing and Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center on Coleridge Street. This POPOS, is a more traditional public open space managed by local nonprofit organizations and is used by families and children from throughout the neighborhood. It was developed in partnership with the existing community and provided for the benefit of the residents as part of an affordable senior housing development

Prior to 1985, developers provided POPOS under three general circumstances: voluntarily, in exchange for a density bonus, or as a condition of approval. POPOS were not required as part of new office developments. As described by San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR), “In the late 1970s, it became apparent that the downtown financial district contained too few public amenities - including open spaces. Concern about the scale and pace of development led to a number of voter initiatives that would have modified the size and appearance of downtown office buildings, some in rather draconian ways. It became clear that better controls were

¹² http://sf-planning.org/sites/default/files/FileCenter/Documents/7003-4_15_08_OpenSpace%281%29.pdf

needed...Developers came to believe that to make their projects more appealing and marketable (and more likely to be approved by the city), they needed to offer more. Planners concluded that the requirements for open space should be made explicit [in the Downtown Plan].¹³ This history suggests that the activism in response to the manhattanization of San Francisco at this time (such as the anti-high-rise movement) was likely very influential in the eventual creation of a requirement for additional open space for new office developments in the rapidly expanding downtown financial district.

The 1985 Downtown Plan created the first systemic requirements for developers to provide publicly accessible open space as a part of projects in C-3 Districts¹⁴. C-3 Districts are Downtown Commercial Districts. Downtown San Francisco, a center for city, regional, national and international commerce, is composed of four separate districts, as follows: C-3-0 (Downtown Office); C-3-R (Downtown Retail); C-3-G (Downtown General Commercial); C-3-S (Downtown Support). The C-3-0 district has a subdistrict for special development called the C-3-0(SD) district¹⁵. As part of the Central SoMa Plan, POPOS are required in new office developments and “encouraged” in residential developments, and provide much of the new open space for the plan. The original goal of POPOS was to “provide in the downtown quality open space in sufficient quantity and variety to meet the needs of downtown workers, residents and visitors.”

In addition to the lack of public open space in this community, current guidelines for POPOS are not reinforcing the need for open space. The Youth Commission has a major concern that the current guidelines for POPOS are, in general, too vague and non-specific as well as not specific enough in their intent regarding youth and families. Several are barely publicly accessible at all and if someone doesn't work in the building, one wouldn't know where to find them. Below is an expert from section 138 from the Planning Code.

Requirements. *An applicant for a permit to construct a new building or an addition of Gross Floor Area equal to 20 percent or more of an existing building (hereinafter "building") in C-3 Districts shall provide open space in the amount and in accordance with the standards set forth in this Section. All determinations concerning the adequacy of the amount of open space to be provided and its compliance with the requirements of this Section shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section [309](#).*

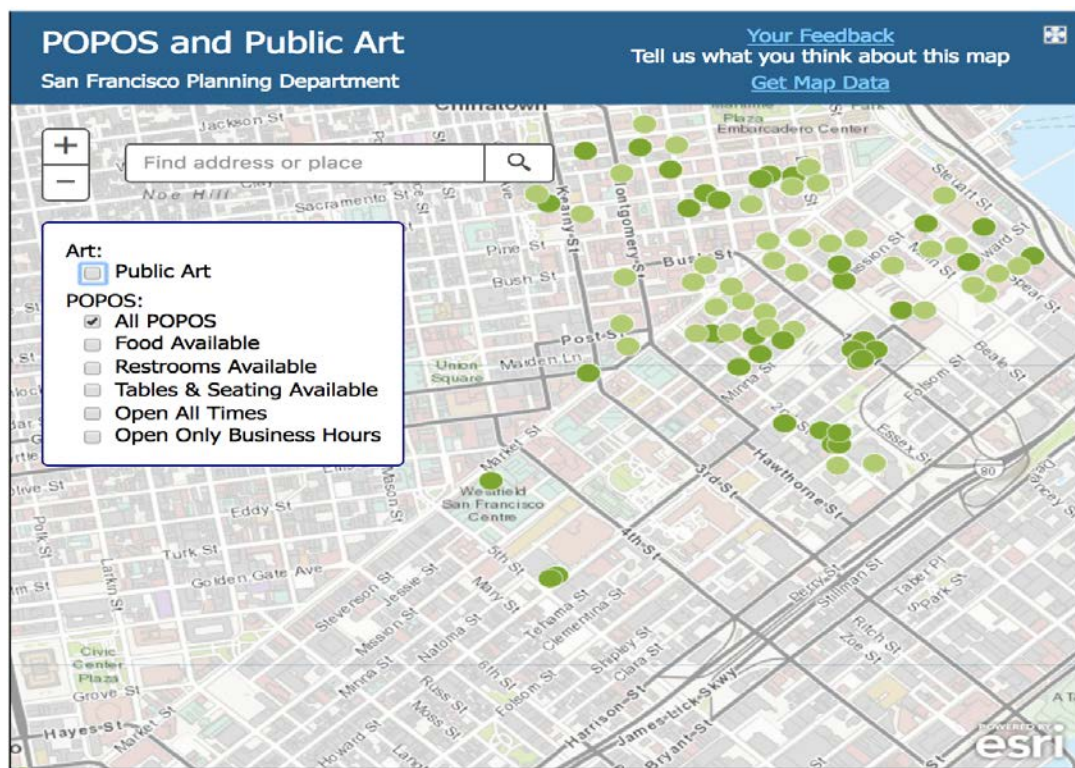
- *Be of adequate size;*
- *Be situated in such locations and provide such ingress and egress as will make the area easily accessible to the general public*
- *Be well-designed, and where appropriate, be landscaped;*

¹³ <https://www.spur.org/publications/spur-report/2009-01-01/secrets-san-francisco>

¹⁴ http://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Transit_Center_District_Sub_Area_Plan.pdf

¹⁵ <http://sf-planning.org/c-3-district-summary>

- *Be protected from uncomfortable wind;*
- *Incorporate various features, including ample seating and, if appropriate, access to food service, which will enhance public use of the area;*
- *Have adequate access to sunlight if sunlight access is appropriate to the type of area;*
- *Be well-lighted if the area is of the type requiring artificial illumination;*
- *Be open to the public at times when it is reasonable to expect substantial public use;*
- *Be designed to enhance user safety and security;*
- *If the open space is on private property, provide toilet facilities open to the public;*
- *Have at least 75 percent of the total open space approved be open to the public during all daylight hours*



RECENT UPDATES

On April 11, 2018 the SF Youth Commission Housing Environment and City Services Committee held a meeting where the Planning Department presented on two topics: the SF shadow ordinance and POPOS. Over 20 youth from the Chinese Community Development Center in Chinatown and from Youth Organizing Home and Neighborhood Action in SOMA were in attendance, and expressed frustration with the current ways that POPOS are created and enforced.

With a persistent lack of open space in downtown, the city has increasingly relied on privatized open space to meet this need. POPOS have been extremely problematic as they do not function like traditional open spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the increasing pace of gentrification and lack of family-friendly open space in our city, the Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The City and County of San Francisco to include children, youth and families in the discussion when creating new POPOS.** The Youth Commission thanks YOHANA and CCDC for bringing young people to our meetings to discuss the ways in which their communities are not adequately benefiting from existing POPOS. These two organizations should be consulted with any new movement forward on POPOS.
- 2) **The Planning Department to increase the number of public parks and public open spaces in the South of Market and Chinatown.** While this recommendation may not directly relate to the issue of POPOS, it would help alleviate the reported issue that there is 0.046 acres of open space in Western SoMA per 1,000 residents when it should be 5.5 acres of open space per 1,000 people throughout the City.
- 3) **For increased funding for maintenance and programming for existing public parks in the South of Market and Chinatown.** The Youth Commission recommends using the “in-lieu fee”, the money a developer would pay rather than provide any on-site public open space in their buildings, to fund this particular request.
- 4) **The Planning Department to create design standards for POPOS that focus on the needs of children, youth, and families, that include (but are not limited to):**
 - Play structures
 - Functional lawns
 - Picnic tables with shading

- Basketball half-courts and other sport courts
- BBQ Pits
- Dynamic seating
- Creative lighting
- Community gardens

- 5) **Before the final consideration at the Planning Commission, the design must come before the Youth Commission for comment and recommendation.** The Youth Commission is a body of 17 young people between the ages of 12-23 and would be an adequate first step in getting youth opinions about designs that could have a negative or positive impact on young people and their communities.

- 6) **For funding in order to have more outreach and better and proper signage for POPOS in addition to multilingual signage.** The Youth Commission met with the SF Planning Department and they stated that signs are only available in English. In SoMa, where many residents need signage in more than just English, this seems like a huge oversight and should be remedied. We thank the SF Planning Department for working with the Board of Supervisors fairly recently on updating the POPOS requirements, completing an “audit” of POPOS, and beginning enforcement on those POPOS that were out of compliance.

- 7) **For funding to pay a specific staff person for implementation of guidelines for POPOS.** When the Youth Commission met with the SF Planning Department they stated there was not a specific staff person or position that was focused on the implementation of guidelines.

PRIORITY 4: PROTECT AND PRIORITIZE COMMUNITIES’ ACCESS TO SUNLIGHT AND OPEN SPACE

Urging the protection of San Francisco’s parks against shadowing, the expansion of open space access in neighborhoods impacted by high-rise development, and its connection to gentrification and displacement.

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department’s (RPD) mission is to “provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of our diverse community.”¹⁶ In recent years, the Youth Commission has worked on ensuring equitable access to neighborhood parks by recommending the creation of a recreation and open space equity analysis, and with the help of Prop B in 2016, RPD “staff conducted research on best practices to define disadvantaged communities, map and analyze San Francisco demographic data, and measure equity in government service.”¹⁷ Ensuring our young people are receiving the full benefits of our public parks and open spaces, including adequate sunlight in all parks, is of paramount importance to the Youth Commission, and its chartered duties.

The Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights, adopted in 2014 by the Board of Supervisors and the Recreation and Parks Commission and supported by the Youth Commission, states that all children should “explore the wild places of the city”, and “ visit and care for a local park”¹⁸. Youth Commissioners support these goals and believe that in order for our young people to receive the full benefits of our parks, we must ensure that we are protecting park-goers access to sunlight and mitigating the shadowing impacts of large buildings which could block direct access to sunlight.

Proposition K (1984), also known as the Sunlight Ordinance, established Section 295 of the Planning Code, mandating that new structures above 40 feet in height that would cast additional shadows on properties under the jurisdiction of, or designated to be acquired by the Recreation and Parks Department, can only be approved by the Planning Commission if the shadow is determined to be insignificant.

¹⁶ SF Recreation and Parks: <http://sfrecpark.org/about/>

¹⁷ SF Recreation and Parks: <http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/PROSAC-memo-Equity-Aug-2016-1.pdf>

¹⁸ SF Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights: <http://www.sfusdscience.org/sfcobr.html>

Although the sunlight ordinance was passed in 1984, the Recreation and Park Commission did not vote down a proposal for a construction that would cause park shadowing until 2015, when a development that would have cast a shadow on Victoria Manalo Draves Park, the only multipurpose public park in SOMA, was voted down by the Commission.¹⁹

Concerns regarding sunlight access are especially acute for the Chinatown community, where many families live in crowded conditions and lack indoor space. Community action to introduce and pass the Sunlight Ordinance was ignited in large part by development proposals that would have cast shadows on Chinatown's Portsmouth square. Despite this, the Planning Commission and Recreation and Park Commission both approved construction of the Oceanwide Center in 2016, a development which will cast new shadows on four downtown parks: Union Square, Portsmouth Square, St. Mary's Square in Chinatown, and Justin Herman Plaza.²⁰ The developer agreed to pay a \$12 million dollar endowment for programming in Chinatown parks. Bill Maher, a former supervisor, former director of the Department of Parking and Traffic, and author of Prop. K, said "trading shadows for dollars is 'flatly illegal.' Prop. K's shadow-limiting powers are clear."²¹

¹⁹ J.K. Dineen, SF Gate, "SF Parks Commission Squashes Condos that Would Shadow SOMA Park," January 17, 2015; Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-parks-commission-squashes-building-that-would-6021079.php>

²⁰ Brittany Hopkins, May 6, 2016, Hoodline, "Planning Commission Approves Oceanwide Center For First & Mission," Available at: <http://hoodline.com/2016/05/planning-commission-approves-oceanwide-center-for-first-mission>

²¹ J.K. Dineen, SF Gate, "SF Parks Commission Squashes Condos that Would Shadow SOMA Park," January 17, 2015; Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-parks-commission-squashes-building-that-would-6021079.php>



Image from Rec & Park

As a number of neighborhoods that are home to proposed future developments are also home to some of San Francisco's lowest income families, who experience particularly limited access to outdoor recreation and open space, Youth Commissioners urge further investigation into the implementation of the Sunlight Ordinance, as well as opportunities to mitigate shadowing impacts and expand sunlight and open space access for communities impacted by shadowing from new developments.

RECENT UPDATES

Currently District 3 and District 6 are working on a collaborative effort to discuss ways to combat the shadow ordinance of 1984. In March 2018, Commissioner Lisa Yu and Commissioner Claire Amable met with D3 Legislative Aide, Sunny Angulo, Commissioner Low, Chinatown Community Development Center, and South of Market Community Action Network staff to discuss ways to combat shadowing and request a hearing from the Board of Supervisors. In April 2018, the SF Youth Commission Housing, Environment and City Services Committee held a meeting inviting the Planning Department to present to us about the shadow

ordinance and privately-owned public open space (POPOS). Over 20 youths from Chinatown and SOMA were in attendance, and expressed frustration of having to choose between sunlight for parks and housing for the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on the implementation of Proposition K and the Sunlight Ordinance and explore opportunities for expanding outdoor recreation access to families living in areas zoned for high rise development.** The Youth Commission would like to thank District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim and their Legislative Aids for their continuous support and push on the issue of shadow impact.
- 2) **The City and County of San Francisco to stop pitting issues of shadows against the problems of housing.** Community members have expressed frustration that they are being asked to have one over the other. The issue of housing and shadowing are both equally important and is related to the problem of gentrification and displacement that we face here in San Francisco which dramatically affects the youth and families in the city.
- 3) **The Planning Department to include stronger language that advocates for protection of SF's most vulnerable open spaces from shadows, and then implement, their Proposition K- The Sunlight Ordinance Memorandum of 1989 guidelines and requirements.**

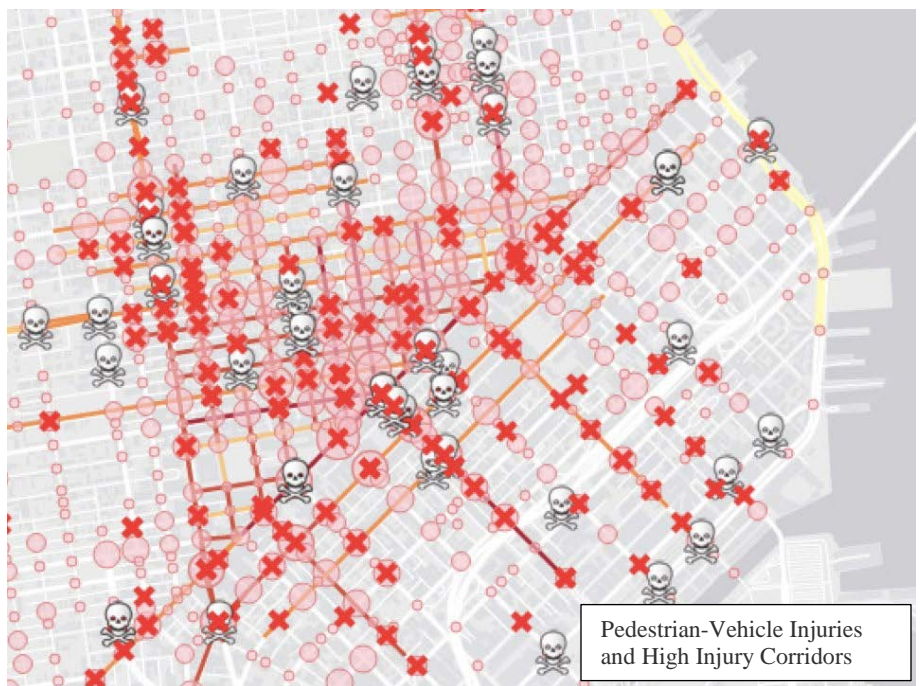
PRIORITY 5: PEDESTRIAN AND NIGHT SAFETY FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Urging the Board of Supervisors, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency to prioritize safer streets created for pedestrians.

BACKGROUND

Walking is an everyday part of life, and this is especially true for people in the South of Market. As a working class community in one of the most densely populated areas of one of the most densely populated cities in the United States, most of the residents rely on walking and public transportation to get to work, school, the store, and at the end of the day to go home²².

In 2017, Youth Organizing Home and Neighborhood Action, (YOHANA), a youth program with the South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN), conducted numerous workshops in the South of Market to address the issues of pedestrian and night safety. SOMCAN, in partnership with various city agencies and organizations, are working to reach Vision Zero's goal of zero pedestrian fatalities by 2024²³. Children and seniors are particularly at risk while cars are speeding through the busy streets of SoMa. SOMCAN has been advocating to increased traffic signage, one-way streets, and advance pedestrian and mid-block crossings that can reduce the dangers that their most vulnerable community members face²⁴. In addition to multiple pedestrian safety issues involving cars, due to smaller than average living spaces and a lack of public and affordable spaces for people of various ages to convene and hang out, the



²² http://www.somcan.org/about_us

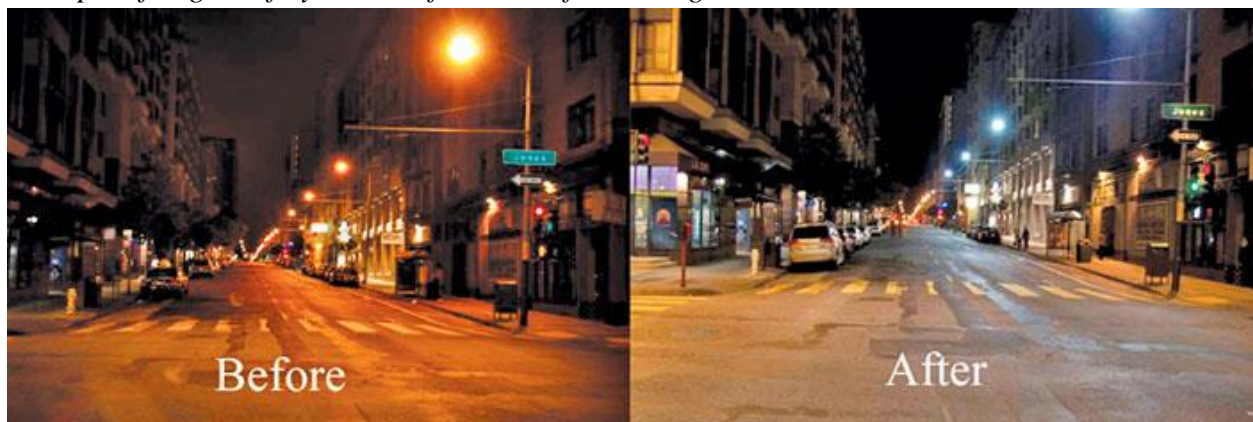
²³ http://visionzerosf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/03.2018Fatalities_MarSummaryMemo.pdf

²⁴ <http://www.somcan.org/>

streets become a default gathering space.

Currently, San Francisco is going through a transition with replacing the current high pressure sodium lights to light-emitting diode (LED) lighting but at a very slow rate. As of June 2015, there was a recorded 465 LED lights spread across the city while there is about 46,000 lights total in the City. That is about 1% of lights changed to LED lighting over the span of 3 years. The high pressure sodium lights have a life span of 3-5 years while the LED lights have a life span of 15-20 years. Also the low lighting and/or broken fixtures cause numerous pedestrian safety issues. Two issues that stem from low lighting and broken fixtures are loitering and stalking. These issues already happen more at night, and low to no lighting only helps those continue to do so.

Example of Night Safety Issue Before and After Changes:



RECENT UPDATES

A majority of the lighting around the city is currently owned by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), with SFPUC currently owning about 60% of the street lights in SF. Recent updates show that SFPUC has already converted 13,000 light fixtures, with future plans to convert 18,500 more fixtures to LED lighting. These are great changes and future plans, but we would like to see both PG&E and SFPUC prioritize and address pedestrian safety with the new improvements and future plans.

On April 11, 2018 YOHANA came to the Housing, Environment, and City Services committee to present their Night and Pedestrian Safety campaign and over 20 young people were in attendance from YOHANA as well as the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC).

Pendant Luminaire



Post Top Luminaire



LED Lights



RECOMMENDATIONS

Pedestrian and night safety is so important that young people in Districts 3 and 6 came to the Youth Commission to make sure this is a top priority for the City and County of San Francisco. The Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and PG&E commit to replace LED lights at 50% done or more.** Since 2015, about 1% of lights in SF have been changed to LED lighting over the span of 3 years.
- 2) **The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and PG&E commit to incorporate light fixtures being pedestrian leveled lighting.** Currently most fixtures are meant for cars, so while having LED lighting, streets still won't have enough lighting if they are too high up in the streets.
- 3) **The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and PG&E maintain monthly maintenance on light fixtures.** It is important to have working lights to keep pedestrians safe. Low lighting and/or broken fixtures cause numerous pedestrian safety issues.
- 4) **The San Francisco Planning Department, SF Public Works, and SF Municipal Transportation Agency to increase the size of sidewalks.** In the South of Market area and, in particular, residential areas, there are blocks with barely enough room for two people to walk side by side.
- 5) **The San Francisco Planning Department, SF Public Works, and SF Municipal Transportation Agency to add more mid-block crossings and increase crossing times.** This could slow down cars trying to speed down long blocks as well as give more time for those in need to cross certain streets.

- 6) **The Board of Supervisors hold a hearing on the impacts of pedestrian and night safety in San Francisco, and in particular, focus on areas most impacted by fatalities, stalking, and loitering.** The Youth Commission thanks Supervisor Norman Yee for introducing File No. 180401 [Hearing – Senior Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities, and Targeted Implementation of Vision Zero Improvements].

PRIORITY 6: IMPROVE VOTER TURNOUT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY PRE-REGISTERING SFUSD 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS

Urging for the investment and recognition of the importance of youth civic participation in San Francisco, as well as supporting the new efforts to increase voter pre-registration among 16 and 17 year olds by capitalizing on partnerships with the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families and the Department of Elections.

BACKGROUND

In response to multiple classroom shootings and weak policies regarding gun control, many young people have mobilized their own student walkouts as well as attended many of the March for our Lives protests across America. Young people at these demonstrations have questioned why they cannot directly hold their elected officials accountable, and have questioned why they do not have the right to vote for someone who can make changes that directly affect youth. These demonstrations have shown us that when there is a pressing issue affecting the lives of young people, youth have the knowledge and heart to seek policy changes in order to resolve these issues. The Youth Commission is dedicated to giving youth the tools and resources they need for future success and the tools to contribute to policy change. We firmly believe that one of these resources is the availability of voter pre-registration forms in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) classrooms. Voter pre-registration and increasing voter engagement of young people can and will lead to a healthier democracy.

Not only are youth mobilizing in favor of gun control reform, but San Francisco, in particular, is also leading the fight against President Trump, at a time when our president is continuously threatening our city, our values, and working to take away voting rights and many other civil liberties. As a way to combat an attack on voting rights, the San Francisco Youth Commission has continued to pre-register 16 and 17 year olds to vote.

“In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 113 by Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) which allowed voter pre-registration beginning at age 16 once the California’s statewide voter registration database, VoteCal, was certified and California became the 21st state to allow pre-registration. VoteCal was certified in September 2016, and pre-registration was

initially only offered through paper forms.”²⁵ Online registration is now available and as of late April 2018, there are 774 youth pre-registered.²⁶

Strong voter turnout and voter engagement is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Data shows that there is a strong case that pre-registering 16 and 17 year olds in San Francisco will bridge the gap between transitional-aged-youth and the ballot box and continue to build lifelong voters and strengthen our democracy.²⁷ During the 2012 election, only 46% of Latino, 41% of Asian American/Pacific Islander, 59% of White, and 54% of African American eligible youth were registered to vote, and those numbers were still far lower during the 2014 midterm elections. And according to the 2016 Youth Vote Student Survey, of the 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 17.²⁸ Educating and engaging more young people in the rights and responsibilities of voting is among the best ways to encourage everyone, especially youth, to vote.

RECENT UPDATES

In May 2016, the Civic Engagement Committee made a major policy request by asking the Board of Supervisors to invest in voter turnout and the civic and political development of young people by supporting a charter amendment lowering San Francisco’s legal voting age to 16. At the time it was written the Youth Commission had just hosted the first joint Board of Supervisors and Youth Commission meeting in which hundreds of youth showed up to the full board meeting and gave hours of public comment. This led to a 9-2 vote in favor of the expansion of municipal voting rights toward 16 and 17 year olds, and would allow this issue to be brought toward the voters of San Francisco in the form of a new name Proposition F.

In November 2016, Proposition F lost by just 2.1% at the polls, but Prop F’s campaign showed the ability to unite young people and bring them to the table with local politicians and into the realm of San Francisco politics. Proposition F was almost entirely youth run, and had the second largest group of campaign volunteers in San Francisco, made up of almost exclusively Bay Area youth. Six of the Board of Supervisors who served during the 2016 term signed on as co-sponsors, as well as various San Franciscan political groups: Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, San Francisco Democratic Party (DCCC), Black Young Dems, SF Latino Democratic Club, SF Women's Political Committee, Asian Pacific Democratic Club are supporting this

²⁵ <http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2017-news-releases-and-advisories/16-and-17-year-olds-can-now-pre-register-vote-online/>

²⁶ http://www.sfelections.org/tools/election_data/

²⁷ Eric Plutzer, “Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth,” *The American Political Science Review* 96/1 (March 2002), pp. 41-56.

²⁸ 2015-16 Youth Vote Student Survey Results. Provided by SFUSD Peer Resources

campaign as well. All of this was accomplished by youth who believed in expanding the voting rights of 16 and 17 year olds. Although this proposition did not pass, we at the Youth Commission feel the need to ride out this momentum through the fairly new state policy which allows 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote. With the recent demonstrations and protests, now more than ever, we believe that encouraging youth to participate in any type of voting or elections is extremely critical. Being pre-registered to vote at 16 or 17 is one of the first steps in civic engagement.

During the 2016-2017 term the Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee focused on pre-registration work. According to Path to the Polls, a report published in 2016 on pre-registration in California, allowing pre-registration can increase young voter turnout by up to 13 percentage points, and that people who vote at an early age are more likely to stay engaged and vote in later elections.²⁹ This data encourages us to believe wholeheartedly in the process of pre-registration and the importance it has for young people, and to make specific requests from partnering agencies, departments, and organizations to help us achieve our goal of increasing the number of pre-registered 16 and 17-year-olds.

In February 2017, the Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee (CEIC) met with the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) department heads where they agreed their youth-serving agencies (after the 2017 request for proposal (RFP) process) should offer the option of pre-registration to the youth they serve. Also in February 2017, CEIC continued a partnership with the Department of Elections and received a presentation on the current numbers of 16 and 17 year olds pre-registered, a training on how to legally and ethically implement voter registration, and acquired special pre-registration forms that allowed Department of Elections to track the amount of youth the Youth Commission has pre-registered.

In late April 2017, CEIC met with the SFUSD Student Advisory Council (SAC) where they asked for feedback on increasing voter registration outreach at the district level as well as asking for support in implementing the Board of Education Resolution 162-23A3 -- Encouraging Students to Exercise Their Voting Rights.³⁰ In early May 2017, the committee attended a Board of Education Curriculum and Program Committee meeting with the Student Advisory Council and gave a presentation on the work that the Civic Engagement Committee had done that year on

²⁹ Path to the Polls: Pre-registering California's Youth to Build a More Participatory Democracy. Alana Miller, Frontier Group Emily Rusch, CALPIRG Education Fund Rosalind Gold and Ofelia Medina, NALEO Educational Fund. September 2016: <http://calpirgedfund.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/CALPIRG%20NALEO%20-%20Path%20to%20the%20Polls%20-%20Sept%202016.pdf>

³⁰ San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education Resolution 162-23A3 -- Encouraging Students to Exercise Their Voting Rights adopted April 12, 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/about-SFUSD/files/board-agendas/Agenda4122016-1.pdf>

pre-registration, and gave suggestions on how to move this work forward at the school district level that the Student Advisory Council and the Youth Commission had brainstormed at the late April meeting. Our next steps are to meet with individual members of the SAC Curriculum and Program Committee who will connect us to the staff in the Humanities Department of SFUSD in the hopes that we can start implementing a process in classes to outreach to sophomores and juniors in SFUSD.

In mid April 2017, the Civic Engagement Committee applied for a Youth Leadership Institute B.L.I.N.G. (Building Leaders in Innovative New Giving) grant for a second time and found out in early May 2017 that we received the grant which funded our pre-registration work from May 2017 until December 2017 of this year.

Because of this B.L.I.N.G. grant, in September 2017, the newly formed Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee began to work on pre-registration by recruiting other young people to run pre-registration efforts. We were able to train 4 young people to act as “trainers” to go into their own schools and organizations to help increase pre-voter outreach. We pre-registered and/or registered 23 sixteen year olds, 41 seventeen year olds, 11 eighteen year olds, and 7 people over the age of eighteen.



Pictures are from the training provided by the Youth Commission's CEI Committee to teach youth how to pre-register their peers.

Former Youth Commissioner, and now Youth Commission intern, Joshua Park has continued the effort to ensure that pre-registration happens in SFUSD classrooms, working with the Student Advisory Council and Department of Elections to build off of Resolution No. 162-23A3 which states that the Board of Education, at the time, asked for pre-registration in history classrooms. The goals of pre-registration continue to be the same, working to make sure that there is strong voter turnout, especially among the youth of San Francisco. Joshua met with the Student Advisory Council in early December and February to discuss the process of mandating pre-registration forms in history classrooms.

During this process, we decided to not just provide pre-registration forms in history classrooms but also Wellness Centers and Peer Resources in SFUSD high schools. We decided to incorporate wellness centers and peer resources because they are resources funded through DCYF, and as many students use these resources these locations can potentially result in a numerous amount of students pre-registering.



RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the above means nothing without the continued support from the City of San Francisco to engage San Francisco youth in the civic and voting process. We are hoping that you will do everything in your power to assist us in the pre-registration of 16-17 year old youth in the city.

The Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families require older youth-serving grantees to offer the option of pre-registration to the youth they will work with.** The Youth Commission thanks DCYF, especially Executive Director Maria Su, for their continued commitment to including pre-registration efforts with their youth serving grantees.
- 2) **The Board of Supervisors write a resolution in support of the Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) which would lower the voting age from 18 years-old to 17 years-old in the state of CA.**

- 3) **The Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families partner with the San Francisco Unified School District to support implementation of the required policies it previously committed to for the 2019-2020 School Year.**
- 4) **The Board of Supervisors continue to support the Department of Elections in their budget needs.** The Youth Commission greatly appreciates the support and guidance that the Department of Elections has provided for young people on the issue of voter pre-registration. We look forward to future collaboration.

PRIORITY 7: LOWER THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL VOTER AGE AND RECOMMIT TO THE VOTE16 CAMPAIGN

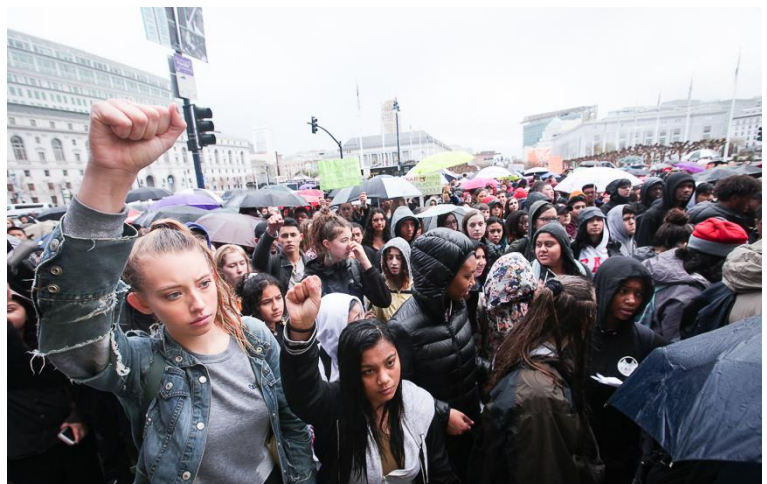
Respond to the tension and frustration of the current national political climate and the new awareness of youth voter education and advocacy, especially in regards to gun control and immigration issues, by working alongside the Vote16 campaign to place on the 2020 ballot a measure that would lower the San Francisco municipal voting age from 18 to 16.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, a youth-led voting initiative turned into a national movement; with support of majority of the Board of Supervisors, Vote16 was placed on the San Francisco ballot in the 2016 elections as Proposition F. Since losing by only 2%, Vote16 campaign efforts have only picked up speed. Other than having eyes on the 2020 election in San Francisco, Vote16 has inspired historic campaigns in cities across the country, including Sacramento, Washington D.C., Chicago and Boulder. Outside of Vote16, many initiatives have appeared that promote youth involvement in voting; in 2016, the City of Berkeley passed legislation allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in school board elections and in 2015, Hyattsville, Maryland and Takoma Park, Maryland became the first two municipalities in the nation to lower the municipal voting age to 16.³¹

RECENT UPDATES

In the wake of the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida on February 14, 2018,³² which took the lives of 17 high school students and teachers, thousands of youth across the country have used their voices to protest mass-shootings in the US. The March For Our Lives, a student-organized demonstration that took place in Washington D.C. with over 800



SF High School students participate in the student-staged gun reform walkout on March 11, 2018. Source: Ekevara Kitpowsong of *El Tecolote*

³¹ <http://hyattsvillelife.com/breaking-news-council-lowers-hyattsville-voting-age-to-16-years-old/>

³² <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/>

sibling events across the country, had an estimated net turnout of 1.2 to 2 million people.³³ On Wednesday, March 11, tens of thousands of middle and high school students, including thousands from San Francisco³⁴, walked out of class for 17 minutes to honor the 17 victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting³⁵. These walkouts, with or without the support of various school administrations³⁶, brought further awareness to the growing frustration of local and national youths.

These protests have sparked awareness of the voice, opinion, and influence of the self-labeled “mass-shooting generation”, and many cities have found themselves amidst newly awakened conversations about the prospects of lowering their municipal voting age.³⁷ The City Council of Washington D.C., home to the March for Our Lives, reintroduced legislation regarding the voting rights of 16 and 17 year olds on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, and as of April, has the support of seven of the 13 city council members³⁸.

Along with recent research and analysis that suggests that the younger people begin voting, the more likely they are to become life-long voters,³⁹ many organizations, including the National Youth Rights Association⁴⁰, have been long-time backers of the right of sixteen and seventeen year olds to vote.

As of 2018, fifteen states — California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah and the District of Columbia have legalized the pre-registration of 16 and 17 year-olds (please see Priority 6 for more information regarding the Youth Commission’s dedication to voter pre-registration). Vote16 is currently campaigning for the lowered voting age in 10 different cities across the country, including Chicago and Sacramento.

³³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_for_Our_Lives

³⁴ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Students-walk-out-embrace-fight-of-our-12754030.php#photo-15231005>

³⁵ https://www.actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/enough-national-school-walkout

³⁶ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/Students-ready-for-Wednesday-walkouts-to-protest-12745159.php>

³⁷ <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/dc/dc-considers-lowering-voting-age-to-16/65-537063861>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ http://www.fairvote.org/lower_the_voting_age#why_should_we_lower_the_voting_age_to_16

⁴⁰ <http://www.youthrights.org/issues/voting-age/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges:

- 1) **The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to support San Francisco in continuing to lead the country in the discussion about young voter engagement.** By indicating continued support for lowering the municipal voting age in San Francisco to sixteen, we send a message to other cities that young people's voting rights are valuable.
- 2) **The Board of Supervisors to host another joint BOS/Youth Commission meeting.** In a join meeting, the Youth Commission can communicate and present recent developments of the Vote16 campaign 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.
- 3) **The Board of Supervisors to sponsor the Vote16 efforts, by voting in favor to place on the 2020 ballot so it can go before local voters.**

PRIORITY 8: ALLOCATE \$60,000 TOWARDS CALIFORNIA ID FEE WAIVERS FOR YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission Urges the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families to coordinate with the City and County of San Francisco to contribute \$60,000 towards California ID fee waivers for 16 through 18-year-olds. We also encourage collaboration with the members of the SF Youth Commission's Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee to implement this change.

BACKGROUND

In November 2016, youth leaders from the San Francisco Youth Commission pushed and advocated for Vote16, a voting reform that would have changed the city charter, potentially allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in San Francisco elections. Last Year's 2017 priority, "Improve Voter Turnout and Civic Engagement Through Pre-Registration of 16 and 17 Year Olds" was among our top priorities. Following Prop. F's narrow loss with 48% of votes, the Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee continued with their dedication to youth voter rights and distributed resources for voter pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds in San Francisco. (Please see Priority 6, *Improve Voter Turnout and Civic Engagement by Pre-Registering SFUSD 16 and 17 Year Olds* for more detailed background and history regarding our voter pre-registration efforts this past year).

During voter pre-registration outreach in 2017, Youth Commissioners noticed that a significant portion of the youth who expressed interest in pre-registering did not have access to a California ID card, a driver's license, or a social security number in order to pre-register. Since many San Francisco youth do not drive, and a large amount of youth face economic barriers in paying for the California ID fee of \$30, the Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee believes making free fee waivers for California IDs will help alleviate a barrier to youth pre-registering to vote. There are 19,000 youth in San Francisco between the ages of 16 and 18 and an estimated 2,000 youth need financial assistance for the California IDs. As one young person from an organization in District 6 said, "There are a lot of kids in the city who can't afford to pay for them, especially kids in the [juvenile justice] system." Also, a lot of organizations do not offer many supportive services because they want to create youth-friendly environments. One Case Manager from an organization in District 4 said, "We just don't want to be a part of the system asking kids if they get EBT, because we already know a lot of the kids here are low-income". Furthermore, in 2017 the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families named the traits of identifying as LGBTQ, underhoused, or having exposure to violence, abuse, or trauma as characteristics of increased need. The San Francisco organizations that the Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee interviewed to determine the need for California IDs consisted

mainly of underhoused, LGBTQ, and juvenile justice-system involved youth. The Youth Commission also plans on working with City College on implementation of fee waivers for students needing identification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The San Francisco Youth Commission Urges:

- 1. The Department of Children, Youth, and their Families, and the City and County of San Francisco, to allocate \$60,000 towards California ID fee waivers for youth.**
From our understanding, based on the estimated amount of 16 through 18 year olds in San Francisco who might need fee assistance (roughly 2,000 16-18 year olds), we multiplied that estimated value by \$30, the cost of a CA ID card. We came up with an estimated value of \$60,000 which is the figure used in our requests.
- 2. Youth-friendly systems regarding CA ID fee waivers be put in place.** Examples could include a system where a young person would have the option of filling out a fee waiver form provided by DCYF at the SF Department of Motor Vehicles, and receive a fee waiver provided that they have evidence that they are 16-18 years old and currently reside in San Francisco.
- 3. The Department of Children, Youth, and their Families, in collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Elections, meet with members of the San Francisco Youth Commission Civic Engagement and Immigration Committee to lay out a plan of action for fee waiver implementation.**

PRIORITY 9: CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING EFFORTS TO PROTECT UNDOCUMENTED FAMILIES FROM DEPORTATION

The Youth Commission urges the City of San Francisco to continue honoring its role as a sanctuary city, and to ensure that all San Francisco families facing deportation have access to guaranteed legal support.

BACKGROUND

Since the election of President Trump in 2016, his administration has taken a focus on sending undocumented people back to their country of origin. In 2016, President Trump explained that “those here today illegally who are seeking legal status, they will have one route and only one route: to return home and apply for re-entry.”⁴¹ Angel Ortiz, of Maryland was forcefully taken by federal agents in front of his family, including his six year old son. He had had only one minor incident while living in the US, which was settled, but was still taken out of the country. After hearing it could be five years before he saw his family again, he was outraged. “I could suffer one or two, but five! Come on! I tell you, Trump is destroying my family.”⁴² Through various bills (Executive Order 13769) that have placed restrictions on immigration, many families are on the verge of being torn apart. President Trump has proposed that in order to deter people from attempting re-entry, “anyone who illegally crosses will be detained until they are removed and go back to country from which they came. And they will be brought great distances, we are not dropping them right across.”⁴³ This has huge implications for family reunification, which would be made extremely difficult.

Recently, there have been efforts by Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to track down immigrant families living in the Bay Area. During the week of February 11th, seventy-seven businesses were raided to track down undocumented workers. Warnings, including an email from Oakland mayor Libby Schaaf, have been issued to those who may be affected. This act of resistance in the face of the government shows the type of support that has been given already, and how powerful of a message that has been. ICE agents have been misrepresenting themselves to enable them to enter homes “without a warrant, by representing themselves as police officers”, creating more distrust for government officials with these individuals than there already is.⁴⁴

⁴¹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/six-new-significant-things-donald-trump-said-immigration>

⁴² <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/21/immigration-families-deportation-crackdown-donald-trump>

⁴³ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/six-new-significant-things-donald-trump-said-immigration>

⁴⁴ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11642905/s-f-police-commissioners-want-ice-agents-to-stop-impersonating-police>

RECENT UPDATES

The Youth Commission would like to thank the Mayor's Office and the Board Of Supervisors for the continued support they have given undocumented families in San Francisco. Specifically, the Board Of Supervisors for BOS file # 170949: Resolution condemning the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and expressing continued support for all immigrants, BOS file #170218: Resolution supporting the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's Sanctuary in Transit Policy, BOS file # 170124: Resolution declaring that the City And County Of San Francisco is united against discriminatory immigration and refugee policies based on religion and national origin, and countless others made to benefit a similar goal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges:

- 1. The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to continue to honor San Francisco's sanctuary city status.** San Francisco is a sanctuary city where undocumented people are supposed to be shielded from the national government's immigration laws. ICE raids have launched a wave of uncertainty among the general public as agents enter homes without warrants. The Youth Commission would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office for the continued support they have given undocumented families in San Francisco.
- 2. That all SF families facing deportation have access to guaranteed legal support, via the Public Defender and community organizations.** Many undocumented families cannot afford attorneys to defend them in court. Consequently, they face greater chance for deportation. The Public Defender's office found that 83% of immigrants facing deportation with a lawyer won their cases, while only 11% won without attorney.⁴⁵ Unfortunately it is usually very difficult for immigrants, who already may be working from the shadows, to be able to afford an immigration attorney. Fortunately, solutions have come into the limelight. Legislation written by Supervisor Fewer, Supervisor Ronen, Supervisor Sheehy, Supervisor Peskin, Supervisor Yee, and Supervisor Kim gives the Public Defender's Office \$200,000 to use in this year. This money will go towards the salaries for three new hires, helping a total of approximately 150 new clients.⁴⁶

⁴⁵<http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2016/12/public-defender-vows-to-keep-fighting-for-universal-representation/>

⁴⁶<http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2017/05/sf-public-defender-immigration-unit-launches-today/>

PRIORITY 10: INCREASE EMERGENCY SHELTER OPTIONS AND PERMANENT EXITS FROM HOMELESSNESS FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

Fund and complete the TAY housing plan contiguous with a TAY navigation center.

BACKGROUND

In San Francisco, it is estimated that there are near 8,000 disconnected transitional-aged youth – youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who may not make a successful transition into adulthood;⁴⁷ 7,700 TAY lack a high school diploma, 6,000 are completely uninsured and 9,000 neither work nor go to school.⁴⁸ As a result, many TAY experience substantial periods of unemployment, homelessness, and a disproportionately high number of these young people have some degree of involvement with the criminal justice system.

In response to these numbers, the Youth Commission adopted a resolution in 2005 calling on then-Mayor Gavin Newsom to create a task force that would propose methods to better serve the transitional age youth population.⁴⁹ Mayor Newsom created a task force in 2006 and after a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-based service providers, and TAY themselves, the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force (TYTF) released a report in October 2007, “Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young Adults.” This document contained 16 comprehensive recommendations for City agencies “to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth.”⁵⁰ Among the report’s 16 recommendations to the City’s policy makers was “more accessible housing for disconnected TAY.”

⁴⁷ Policy Priorities for Transitional Aged Youth, Vision and Goals 2014-2016

⁴⁸ IBID

⁴⁹ Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task Force. (2005).

⁵⁰ Disconnected Youth in San Francisco, p. 50

2015 TAY HOUSING PLAN

Some City Departments responded to the TYTF report with immediacy. For example, the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) convened a TAY Housing Work Group with a variety of stakeholders to create a plan to meet the housing goals established by the Task Force. The goal of the TAY Housing Plan was to create 400 additional units for TAY by 2015, using a variety of housing models. This priority was reaffirmed by a recommendation in the TAYSF Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth 2014-16 document, released in Spring 2014, which called for plans to continue the pipeline of housing for TAY to meet or exceed the 400 unit goal by 2015.⁵¹

A TAY Housing Work Group concluded that there is no one "best model" of housing for youth, rather a wide range of models is needed for different populations. MOH went ahead and issued its first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) exclusively for projects serving TAY in 2009. Unfortunately, due to stigma against TAY and homeless youth, some proposed affordable TAY housing projects have faced considerable neighborhood opposition, as was the case of the Booker T. Washington project, which took years to be officially approved. The recession of 2010 also delayed the completion of many TAY housing units. Fortunately, the John Burton Foundation Housing Complex at Booker T. Washington is now underway with plans to have it completed by June 2017.

It is now 2018, three years past the year of the projected 400 unit deadline. While there has been progress, there are still 120 units that still need to be identified.⁵² To date, 280 TAY units have been identified, and a total of 188 units have been completed. 25 units are presently under construction, while 37 units are in predevelopment, and 30 units have been land-identified.⁵³

In 2013 and 2014, the Youth Commission recommended the development of an evaluation tool that measures the quality and effectiveness of TAY housing and its supportive services which includes direct feedback from TAY. The need for TAY housing is much bigger than what is available. Therefore, it is necessary to see that funds are invested wisely. The Mayor's Office of Housing conducted a TAY housing assessment in conjunction with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS) in 2014.

⁵¹ Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco (TAYSF) Initiative, TAYSF 2011 Progress Report, retrieved from <http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TAYSF-Progress-Report-2011.pdf>

⁵² Personal communication with Anne Romero, Project Manager with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, May 9, 2017.

⁵³ Supportive Housing for Transition-Aged Youth, prepared by Mayor's Office of Housing, Updated May 2017.

Establishing a TAY Navigation Center

In June of 2016, homelessness was the number one concern of San Francisco residents.⁵⁴ In response to this, Supervisors Campos and Kim announced a possible declaration of a state of emergency on homelessness allowing the city to seek additional state and federal funds for homeless services. In July 2016, Supervisors passed an ordinance (File No. 160278) requiring the City to open 6 new navigation centers within 24 months—3 by July 2017 and an additional 3 more by July 2018. The ordinance includes provisions for one of the navigation centers being dedicated to meeting the needs of young people, ages 18-29 who are experiencing homelessness.⁵⁵

The Navigation Center ordinance passed by supervisors in 2016 highlights the need to bolster our stock of permanently affordable TAY units in accordance with the 2015 TAY housing plan alongside the effort to open an urgently-needed TAY navigation center.

The current Navigation Center model has been successful in getting long-term, disconnected homeless adults into permanent housing.⁵⁶ Unfortunately, the current Navigation Center does not have designated areas for TAY, a population that would greatly benefit from the innovative model. San Francisco only has one TAY-designated emergency housing facility, Lark Inn, which houses only 45 individuals.

The unemployment rate of TAY ages 20-24 is double the rate of homeless adults⁵⁷ and 72% of homeless youth said they wish to attend school.⁵⁸ According to the 2015 TAY Housing Assessment, “Without housing, young people face significant challenges in achieving their education and employment goals. For many youth, having a stable place to live is also critical to reducing their involvement and exposure to street culture, including sex work, using, or selling drugs and violence.”⁵⁹

⁵⁴ SF Chronicle: Homelessness Soars to No. 1 Concern in SF, New Poll Finds. 2016; Available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Most-see-SF-moving-in-wrong-direction-poll-finds-6892152.php>

⁵⁵ Legislative Digest for BOS File No. 160278; Available at: <https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4509733&GUID=378BBDB1-D115-43E4-B7CA-41003EC3A178>

⁵⁶ Emily Cohen and Julie Leadbetter, Presentation to the Housing Environment and City Services Committee, San Francisco Youth Commission, April 2016

⁵⁷ Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

⁵⁸ IBID

⁵⁹ Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS), November 2015, *Providing Stability and Support: An Assessment of San Francisco's Transitional Age Youth Housing and Services System*. Retrieved from <http://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/TAY-Housing-Svcs-System-Assmt-11.3.15.pdf>

In April of 2016, Youth Commissioners met with Navigation Center Director, Julie Leadbetter, and Emily Cohen, Deputy Director at Mayor's Office of Housing Opportunity, Partnership & Engagement, to discuss the creation of TAY-serving Navigation Centers. They suggested that navigation center models are most successful with a 2:1 ratio—meaning that for every one client in a Navigation Center, there must be at least two potential long-term housing units available. With a proposed designated TAY Navigation Center with a 75-person maximum capacity, the city still has a long way to go to satisfying both the housing and shelter needs for TAY. Again, according to the TAY housing assessment,” the supply of affordable housing options for transitional aged youth is completely insufficient”.⁶⁰

The Navigation Center ordinance passed by supervisors in 2016 highlights the need to bolster our stock of permanently affordable TAY units in accordance with the 2015 TAY housing plan alongside the effort to open an urgently-needed TAY navigation center. The Youth Commission supports the effort to expedite the creation of a TAY navigation center and find strategies for intervening to serve TAY’s immediate housing and shelter needs, while remaining focused on also creating permanent housing options for San Francisco’s most disconnected young people.

Declaring a Year of Recognizing Homeless Youth

During their 2015-2016 term Youth Commissioners collaborated with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street to bring awareness to the City of the homeless youth population in San Francisco. Together, we recognized that, despite the current investments in homeless youth in San Francisco, this population is often overlooked and underserved.

In wake of an uncertain future with the transition of a new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the new presidential administration, Americans across the nation fear the likely possibility of a decline in housing and shelters for individuals in most need. LGBT youth also face homophobic and transphobic discrimination, and are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth population. As many as 40



HSH Spending on TAY Programs

Allocation of Service Dollars by Population

	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
TAY	6%	6%	8%
Families	16%	15%	16%
Adults	78%	78%	76%

<http://dhsh.sfgov.org>

Sourced from: HSH May 2017 Presentation to the BOS Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee

⁶⁰ IBID

percent of the nation's homeless youth identify as LGBT, while between 5-10 percent of the overall youth population is LGBT.⁶¹

On any given day in the United States, there are between 353,000 - 503,000 youth ages 12- 24 who experience homelessness,⁶² with only about 4,000 youth shelter beds available across the country.⁶³ According to the Coalition on Homelessness, in San Francisco alone there are approximately 3,200 homeless children under age nineteen live in San Francisco, a 94% increase over the homeless youth population in 2007.⁶⁴ Each year, approximately 5,000 young people die on the streets in the U.S. because of illness, assault, or suicide.⁶⁵ These youth are also susceptible to incarceration and the dangers accompanying living on the streets: One third of this population has been involved with the juvenile justice system, 75% have used illegal substances, 20% of San Francisco youth traded sex for a place to stay compared to 5% in 2013, and one in three are approached by a recruiting "pimp" within the first forty-eight hours of being on the street.⁶⁶

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required public agencies and service providers to conduct a Point in Time count of the homeless population in their cities every odd-numbered year since 2005. Beginning in 2007, San Francisco was among the first cities to count homeless youth as a distinct population from the adult homeless population. In San Francisco's 2015 Point-in-Time count, there were nearly 1,600 unaccompanied youth, accounting for 21% of all homeless individuals counted.⁶⁷ Unfortunately, even with these counts and statistics, a large number of youth experiencing homelessness are unaccounted for.

The homeless youth population is not homogenous, representing many different needs. However, all homeless youth need shelter, food, water, and clothing. Indeed, we have seen that when these needs are addressed, these youth take the lead and graduate from intensive training programs and serve the City as policy advisors, youth commissioners and community advocates. When given the opportunity, many homeless and formerly homeless youth contribute meaningfully to San Francisco. Nevertheless, to make this successful transition out of homelessness, young people need the stability of housing as well as access to flexible supportive services.

⁶¹ "National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth." GLAAD.

<http://www.glaad.org/blog/national-campaignyouth-shelter-seeks-housing-homeless-lgbt-youth>

⁶² Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2013 Report On Incidence and Needs, p. 1

⁶³ "National Campaign for Youth Shelter seeks Housing for homeless LGBT youth." GLAAD.

⁶⁴ Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco

⁶⁵ "Streetwork: Homeless Youth Facts." Safe Horizon. <https://www.safehorizon.org/get-informed/homeless-youth-statistics-facts/#statistics-and-facts/>

⁶⁶ Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

⁶⁷ DSHS May 10, 2017 Presentation to the BOS Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

UPDATES

Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing

Since coming online, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has made meaningful steps to address the needs of homeless youth. Ali Schlageter was brought on as the Youth Programs Manager, the staff person dedicated to youth and TAY homelessness. The Youth Commission is excited to work with Ms. Schlageter and the department on the needs for homeless youth.

In 2016, DSHS launched an application to be considered a community for HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant on behalf of San Francisco. Thankfully, HUD announced in early 2017 that San Francisco was selected for the YHDP grant, and DSHS has been working with service providers, city agencies, SFUSD, and the Youth Commission to create a community plan for how the YHDP award will be spent. The Youth Commission looks forward to seeing the completed plan, and the impact the YHDP grant will make in serving our homeless youth. The commission also look forward to working with the YHDP Youth Advisory Board (YAB).

The Youth Commission thanks Mayor Lee for his leadership in creating a Department on Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DSHS), and congratulate Director Jeff Kositsky on completing his first year leading the department.

May 2017 Youth Homelessness Hearing

A May 2017 Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Safety committee hearing brought much needed attention to the issue of youth homelessness and the City's investments in services for youth experiencing homelessness. The Youth Commission looks forward to the Board of Supervisors continuing the conversation on the needs for homeless youth, and to seeing the discussion reflected in this year's budget. Some areas highlighted during the hearing that are in need of further discussion include:

- **The City's outstanding need to create a TAY navigation center in accordance with the 2016 ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors.**
- **The need for City involvement in siting a new home for the Homeless Youth Alliance.** HYA lost its lease three years ago and now operates without an office to serve some of the highest-needs youth in the City; and the possibility of using City land and/or park assets to address this need
- **The need to increase the City's overall investment in meeting the needs of youth and TAY experiencing homelessness.** 6% of the DSHS budget specifically addresses the needs of homeless youth in the current fiscal year. 76% of the budget is for homeless adults.
- **Seeing that the needs of disconnected TAY 18-24 will be represented in DCYF's upcoming July 2017 Request for Proposals/investments for the next five years.** In past years, youth commissioners have recommended committing 1/3 of the Children & Youth Fund growth funds (1/4 cent phase- in over four years after the 2014 reauthorization) to

serve as a baseline commitment for services specifically for disconnected TAY within the Children and Youth Fund.

- **Declare a Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness.** In 2017, the Youth Commission, along with the Youth Advisory Board of Larkin Street, urged the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to declare a Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness. The Youth Commission thanks Supervisor Jeff Sheehy for writing Resolution No. 170842 [Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness in San Francisco - FY2017-2018] and for the Board of Supervisors voting to support this resolution in July 2017.⁶⁸

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan.

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Department of Public Health, and the Human Services Agency to implement the housing recommendations of the Transitional Youth Task Force and the TAYSF 2014-2016 priorities document,⁶⁹ including and especially the goal of identifying the remaining 120 housing units in the 2015 TAY Housing Plan.

2. Recommit to the TAY Housing Plan by establishing a new 2025 TAY housing goal.

The Youth Commission urges the City to establish a new TAY Housing goal for the years ahead. Ensuring more designated TAY units are created in the near future, beyond the 2015 goal of 400 units, will create necessary exits for homeless and marginally housing TAY.

3. Plan for the on-site supportive service needs of TAY in supportive housing, address the outstanding need for residential treatment for TAY, and address TAY emergency housing needs by establishing a TAY navigation center.

The Youth Commission encourages the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to plan for the commitment of applicable funds for on-site case management and other services associated with the construction of the remaining 120 units in the TAY housing plan. We urge for the establishment of a TAY-specific residential treatment option for TAY seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment. Finally, we urge for the prioritization of the establishment of a TAY navigation center to address the emergency shelter needs of transitional age youth in accordance with the Board of Supervisors' 2016 ordinance.

⁶⁸ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5352105&GUID=9661DC5C-C4AA-4E18-BE2C-2B8D7E1C7DAB>

⁶⁹ TAYSF, Policy Priorities for Transitional Age Youth, Recommendations to Improve the Lives of TAY in San Francisco. Retrieved from <http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=48565>.

4. Invest and explore other ways to promote positive housing outcomes for TAY.

While, youth commissioners recognize the importance of creating housing units for our City's most disconnected young people, we also recommend analyzing housing outcomes for TAY who would not normally be eligible for TAY housing programs, in order to consider additional less resource-intensive supports to help TAY achieve positive housing outcomes, including: financial education, move-in costs or rental subsidies, apartment-hunting/placement support, and tenants' rights education.

PRIORITY 11: REDUCE THE NEGATIVE SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL DENSITY ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES BY STRENGTHENING CURRENT REGULATIONS

Urging to reduce the alcohol-related impacts on the youth and families of San Francisco by requiring equity analyses on all alcohol policies developed; supporting the Budget Legislative Analyst Report on the Economic and Administrative Costs Related to Alcohol Abuse in the City and County of San Francisco by moving it to a public hearing; and by partnering with the San Francisco Prevention Coalition to develop an alcohol regulatory framework for the City and County of San Francisco.

BACKGROUND

According to the averages done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from 2006 to 2010, 503 underage youth die annually from alcohol related causes in California and excessive alcohol consumption. Excessive alcohol consumption by California youth leads to 30,236 years of potential life lost each year. Youth violence related to drinking costs California \$3.5 billion and results in 216 deaths annually, and youth traffic crashes related to drinking costs \$1.2 billion and results in 148 deaths annually. The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over \$6.7 billion annually. In 2012, 5192 youth aged 12 to 20 years were admitted for alcohol treatment in California. Estimates conclude that the City and County of San Francisco bears the cost of \$17.1 million annually for alcohol-related emergency medical transport, medical care of people with alcohol-related illnesses, alcohol abuse treatment and prevention, and disability and death due to alcohol use. Estimates conclude that the City and County of San Francisco bears the broader economic cost of \$655 million and total and the total quality-of-life cost of \$1 billion from alcohol abuse and related incidents, including costs related to years of life lost and hospitalizations due to alcohol-related illness and injury, injury and fatality due to motor vehicle collisions, fetal alcohol syndrome, high-risk sex, productivity loss, and crime. In San Francisco, alcohol use ranks among the leading causes of premature mortality.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health considers alcohol a major public health problem. Census tracts show that neighborhoods such as Bernal Heights, Chinatown, Hayes Valley, Japantown, Nob Hill, North Beach, Potrero Hill, South of Market, the Tenderloin, and the Western Addition have a disproportionate share of alcohol sales outlets relative to their population size. These areas tend to have a higher density of violent crime as well as a higher proportion of residents with incomes below the poverty threshold. According to the National

Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21. According to the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control as of January 8, 2016, there are 3,809 retail businesses selling alcohol in San Francisco's 46.9 square miles, making San Francisco the most alcohol retail-dense county in California. Recent studies using advanced analytical methods by Toomey and colleagues (2007) show that a higher density of alcohol outlets is related to increased rates of crime, particularly homicides and assaults. Treno and colleagues (2003) evaluated the effect of alcohol outlet density on driving after drinking among 15- to 20-year-olds, finding that higher alcohol outlet density is associated with greater prevalence of drunk driving; and

Preliminary findings from recent studies conducted by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Trauma Center demonstrate that approximately 8% percent of alcohol-related trauma cases die from their injuries. Of a sample of 300 moderate-to-severe traumas, 59% occurred in patients with blood alcohol levels of .08 and above. The study found that patients with a positive blood alcohol level experienced more severe traumas, and therefore faced a greater risk of death. Analysis revealed that the highest rates of alcohol-related injuries treated at the Trauma Center occurred in San Francisco census tracts with a high density of alcohol outlets. States, cities and counties have the power to place a legal limit on the number of alcohol establishments in a neighborhood, city or county as a strategy to reduce alcohol consumption, alcohol-related health issues, and safety problems among the general population. The San Francisco Prevention Coalition, which is made of several youth serving agencies including Asian American Recovery Services, Center for Open Recovery, Community Youth Center, Horizons Unlimited, Japanese Community Youth Council, South of Market Action Network, Vietnamese Youth Development Center, OMIE Beacon, and Youth Leadership Institute, identify alcohol density as a critical health equity issue impacting youth and communities of color across San Francisco. The San Francisco Prevention Coalition and a broad range of partners including the San Francisco Alcohol Policy Partnership Working Group, San Francisco Friday Night Live are working to ensure data and evidence analysis of alcohol density impacts in San Francisco are led by experts in alcohol prevention from SFPD, UCSF, and SFDPH. That the Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to require an equity analyses as it relates to all alcohol policies developed. That the City and County of San Francisco partner with the San Francisco Prevention Coalition, which is made of several youth serving agencies including Asian American Recovery Services, Center for Open Recovery, Community Youth Center, Horizons Unlimited, Japanese Community Youth Council, South of Market Action Network, Vietnamese Youth Development Center, and Youth Leadership Institute, Alcohol Policy Steering Committee, and DPH leaders to develop an alcohol regulatory framework to reduce the impact of alcohol density.

The Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco hereby urge Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors to highlight the negative societal and economic impacts of alcohol density on youth and their families in San Francisco by moving the Budget Legislative Analyst Report on the Economic and Administrative Costs Related to Alcohol Abuse in the City and County of San Francisco to a public hearing.

RECENT UPDATES

On February 12th, 2018 the Youth Commission's Housing, Environment and City Services Committee received a presentation and update from the Prevention Coalition. Currently, there is no new data and are working to present to the Board of Supervisors.

On April 4th, 2016 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 122-16 [Urging the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to Deny Formula Retail Food and Drink Establishments That Do Not Traditionally Sell Alcohol].

RECOMMENDATIONS

We would like to thank the Youth Leadership Institute for bringing this issue and research to Youth Commissioners' attention. The Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the negative societal and economic impacts of alcohol density on youth and families in San Francisco. Therefore, Youth Commissioners urge that:

1. The Board of Supervisors require an equity analysis of alcohol-related impacts to be conducted as a part of any new alcohol policies developed and consider the impacts of alcohol density on Transitional Age Youth ages 18-24, communities of color, and low income communities.
2. The Board of Supervisors move the Budget Legislative Analyst Report on the Economic and Administrative Costs Related to Alcohol Abuse in the City and County of San Francisco to a public hearing.
3. The Board of Supervisors adopt legislation addressing and mitigating the impacts of alcohol density, especially amongst vulnerable communities.
4. The Board of Supervisors partner with the San Francisco Prevention Coalition, San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership Alcohol Policy Steering Committee, SFPD

Alcohol Liaison Unit, SF Friday Night Live, and UCSF, to develop an alcohol regulatory framework to reduce the impact of alcohol density on youth and families.

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2018-19 & 2019-20

