



**YOUTH COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor Edwin M. Lee
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

CC: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Hydra Mendoza, Mayor's Families & Children's Advisor
Francis Tsang, Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff for appointments
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Mayor's Director of Violence Prevention Services
Maria Su, Director, Department of Children, Youth, and their Families
Public Defender Jeff Adachi,
Katherine Weinstein Miller, District Attorney's Chief of Alternative Programs & Initiatives
Allen Nance, Chief of Juvenile Probation
Lauren Bell, Reentry Division Director

FROM: 2016-2017 Youth Commission

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

RE: Four Youth Commission actions at the Monday, April 3, 2017 meeting: Adopted resolution 1617-AL-02 [Resolution Responding to Donald Trump's Election and Executive Actions]; Passed Motion 1617-AL-04 [Motion Urging the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on alternatives to incarceration for 18-25 year olds]; Passed Motion 1617-AL-07 [Youth Commission Support for Petra DeJesus' Reappointment to the Police Commission]; Certified Resignation of Tsia Blacksher

At our regular meeting of Monday, April 3, 2017, the Youth Commission took four official actions:

Youth commissioners passed motion 1617-AL-04 [**Motion Urging the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on alternatives to incarceration for 18-25 year olds**] (attached).

Youth commissioners passed motion 1617-AL-07 [**Youth Commission Support for Petra DeJesus' Reappointment to the Police Commission**] (attached).

After holding a successful and inspiring [Youth Unity & Solidarity Rally](#) on the Polk Street steps earlier the same day, Youth commissioners adopted resolution 1617-AL-02, "**Resolution responding to the Presidency of Donald Trump and reaffirming San Francisco's Youth's commitment to the values of community, respect and solidarity, and urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support young people's leadership during this critical time**" (attached).

Finally, youth commissioners **certified the resignation of Commissioner Tsia Blacksher** from the Youth Commission, at Ms. Blacksher's request.

Please do not hesitate to contact Youth Commissioners or Youth Commission staff (415) 554-6446 with any questions. Thank you.

1 **[Motion Urging the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on alternatives to incarceration for**
2 **18-25 year olds]**

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4 **Supplemental information:**

5 Research shows that young people's brains are still developing until age 25, meaning they may be
6 uniquely positioned to learn, change, and benefit from rehabilitative approaches. However, prisoners
7 aged 18-25 occupied 28% of all bed days in our county jails (from Controller), while making up only
8 12% of SF residents are in that age group" (12% is from US Census, 2010). Moreover, 18-25 year olds
9 have the longest stays in our county jails, and so account for largest share of "bed days" of any age
10 group each year. According to the Work Group to Re-envision the Jail Replacement Project's recent
11 issue brief, 18-25 year olds accounted for 235,371 bed days per year, out of a total 837,890 bed days.
12 Black youth 18-25 represented the highest number of bed days of any group in the system (135,578)
13 overall. Contact with the criminal justice system may impede access for transitional age youth into
14 housing and employment opportunities.

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16 In contrast to our City's high rate of incarcerating its of young adults ages 18-25, the Juvenile
17 Probation Department has met success in its efforts to find alternatives to incarceration for youth under
18 age 18. Over the last several years, the Juvenile Probation Department has overseen a dramatic
19 reduction in the number of juveniles held in out-of-home detention. The population at Juvenile Hall in
20 January 2017 was 36 youth, compared to over 80 youth in 2013. The Juvenile Probation Department
21 has employed many innovative means to reach these goals, including stream-lining risk assessment
22 procedures, using a community assessment and referral center, and working with a collaborative re-
23 entry team to reduce recidivism.
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1 San Francisco's Young Adult Court was established in summer 2015 as a partnership between the
2 Superior Court, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Department of Public Health, Adult
3 Probation, the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Police Department, and Family
4 Service Agency. The court serves 18-25 year olds facing felony charges and engages them in in a
5 high-touch intensive case-planning approach as an alternative to jail time. The court is now
6 successfully graduating its second cohort of 60-80 young people. However, the court has had to twice
7 shut its doors to new referrals due to reaching its capacity. The San Francisco Veterans Justice Court
8 represents another example of a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of particular
9 populations in the adult criminal justice system and reducing reliance on incarceration.

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11 As part of the ongoing discussion about the needs of the population in San Francisco's county jails,
12 the Youth Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors hold a hearing to discuss
13 alternatives to incarceration for 18-25 year olds in San Francisco's county jails. This hearing can
14 explore promising approaches currently in use in the Young Adult Court; existing barriers to young
15 adults' successful enrollment in or graduation from the Young Adult Court; insights learned from the
16 Juvenile Probation Departments' successful efforts to develop alternatives to out-of-home detention for
17 youth; and approaches being used by other states and counties to better address the needs of 18-25
18 year olds involved in the criminal justice system.

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23 _____
24 Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission
25 Adopted on April 3, 2017

1 [Youth Commission Support for Petra DeJesus' Reappointment to the Police Commission]

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

4 Petra DeJesus has served on the Police Commission for ten years, during which time she has been an
5 advocate for the needs of young people and improving youth-police relations. The Youth Commission
6 supports her reappointment to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors.

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11 Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission
12 Adopted on April 3, 2017

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1 [Resolution Responding to Donald Trump’s Election and Executive Actions]

2 **Resolution responding to the Presidency of Donald Trump and reaffirming San Francisco’s**
3 **Youth’s commitment to the values of community, respect and solidarity, and urging the Mayor**
4 **and Board of Supervisors to support young people’s leadership during this critical time**

5 WHEREAS, On January 20th, 2017 Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, subsequent to his inauguration, he has issued several executive orders and
8 actions that threaten immigrant families, and transgender people, twice attempted to institute a Muslim
9 travel ban, threatened to cut funding to sanctuary cities and UC Berkeley, promised to spend federal
10 money to build a border wall, sown disharmony in the international community, disregarded and
11 sought to disempower the judiciary, sought to displace military officials and install a white nationalist
12 on the national security council, sought to pass legislation that would take away health coverage from
13 tens of millions of people, overseen military actions resulting in the largest loss of lives of Iraqi civilians
14 since the U.S. invasion in 2003, and promised further unilateral action; and

15 WHEREAS, young people will be disproportionately impacted by the proposed federal budget
16 cuts, and are poised to inherit the political divisions and disharmony affecting our country; and

17 WHEREAS, young people around the country and in San Francisco in particular are largely
18 opposed to the rising tide of racism, transphobia, Islamophobia, and xenophobia, and its purveyors,
19 SFUSD students led the inauguration day protests, and young people have a key role to play in
20 building the resilience needed to withstand attacks on our communities and heal divisions of fear and
21 hatred; now therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, that despite the threats, and no matter their severity or duration, the San
23 Francisco Youth Commission will maintain its commitment to all undocumented youth, and our
24 commitment to San Francisco remaining an impervious Sanctuary City dedicating itself to shelter and
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1 raising up its numerous undocumented youth and families that call this City their home; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, that regardless of the actions of ICE or the executive branch, this commission
4 stands strong in its long-held beliefs—including the value of all youth, documented or undocumented;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, that the City’s youth will never back down on women’s rights, and young women
7 in San Francisco will grow up to be role models for generations, portraying to those around them that
8 they can be and do anything; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, that we stand by our transgender LGBTQQ+ communities, including those
10 innumerable proud transgender and LGBTQQ+ youth who have come to San Francisco seeking a
11 loving community; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, that this commission denounces the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the
13 Religious Liberty Bill, and all other actions that would hinder the progress and wellbeing of LGBTQQ+
14 youth in this nation and City; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, that this commission will stand by both Arab and Muslim youth and their families,
16 as well as our nation’s founding principle of religious freedom; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, that we do not turn our backs on our youth nor their families for their faith or
18 country of origin, and that refugees are wanted and valued here; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That Black Lives Matter in San Francisco, and that the killing and brutality against
20 black people must never be normalized and the color of one’s skin should never compromise young
21 people’s safety or wellbeing; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission will continue to advocate for reforming our police
23 department to improve relationships between police and youth of color, ensuring that youth are treated
24 with respect and care; and, be it further
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RESOLVED, that we will stand up for our environment and its climate—even with elected federal officials who are climate change deniers, because youth understand the harm industrial and commercial materials can have on our environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that while the executive branch and climate-change deniers may not comprehend it, the youth of San Francisco understand the true threat climate change has to our species and to future generations, and we will continue our work advocating for a more green city and nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission believes that no one, especially the President, should make fun of people with disabilities and we stand in solidarity with those with disabilities to be treated with dignity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this commission will continue advocating for the MUNI and BART systems many students rely on for our daily commutes, whether this administration follows through on its platform to eliminate federal transit funding or not, and that we are already firmly committed to expanding transit access through programs like Free MUNI for Youth and we will never stop fighting for this and programs like it; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we are privileged to live in an economically strong region full of promise and innovation, and that youth of this City will not be bullied or afraid of threats to revoke funding from the programs and resources we access in order to thrive; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission and all youth throughout this city and county will remain dedicated to our values, and to advocating for a strong quality of life for all youth, and that we recognize the manifold achievements and contributions of young people of diverse backgrounds to the wellbeing of our City; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that bigotry may have won a seat in the White House, but it cannot and will not ever change the solidarity amongst youth in San Francisco, and that our convictions and engagement will only be strengthened by the challenges we now face; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to explore ways to continue to invest in and support strong youth leadership in our City, so that San Francisco continues to grow the leaders that are critically needed during this time.



Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission
Adopted on April 3, 2017