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# YOUTH BUDGET TOWN HALL REPORT

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SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION  
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# INTRODUCTION

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“The City’s budget reflects the City’s values” and “the City’s budget is a moral document” are two quotes the San Francisco Youth Commission (SFYC) abide by.

While there is much discussion and dialogue on schools reopening during the COVID-19 global pandemic, little has been said about the impact of the City’s impending reduced budget on young people. This gap regarding the impacts of a budget deficit on youth is what led the San Francisco Youth Commission to hold a virtual Youth Budget Town Hall on February 8, 2021 (1). Before summarizing this extraordinary event, it’s imperative to do a general overview of the SFYC and the City’s budget and budget process.

## SF YOUTH COMMISSION

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The SF Youth Commission is the bridge between youth and government - it is the only youth advising body to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Mayor. Established by Prop F in 1995, with the first term taking place by 1996, the SFYC is made up of 17 young people between the ages of 12-23. Each SF Supervisor gets to appoint one youth to act as their

district representative and the Mayor gets one representative along with 5 diversity appointments.

According to the City’s Charter in Section 4.124 “The purpose of the Commission is to collect all information relevant to advising the Board of Supervisors and Mayor on the effects of **legislative policies**, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and **budgets** concerning the children and youth of San Francisco” as well as “...hold public forums in which both youth and adults are encouraged to participate.” Knowing that SF law encourages the SFYC to hold public forums, having a Youth Budget Town Hall made perfect sense to hear from youth, staff from youth serving community based organizations, and City staff who are involved in the budget process.

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(1) [https://fb.watch/3Q0vYt4\\_q5/](https://fb.watch/3Q0vYt4_q5/)

In particular, anyone with budget decision making power in SF are adults. Even when adults have good intentions on behalf of young people, more often than not intricate youth needs get glossed over or sometimes even dismissed. It is the SFYC's duty to hear from youth and the Town Hall provided a way for youth themselves to share their thoughts and opinions on the budget and the proposed required cuts

In general, it is already the SFYC's chartered duty to listen, assess, and advocate on behalf of, and with, youth so the SFYC can take what they've gathered and advise the BOS and the Mayor before they make any decisions that could impact youth. But the budget and budget process are inherently convoluted and complicated - even to the SFYC.



If these 17 youth (who are actively involved in government, have access to the way the City operates, and receive budget training by SFYC staff) are struggling with how to understand the budget process - what does this mean for youth and adults who aren't as connected as the SFYC?

It means that it's confusing and inaccessible! In January and February 2021, some Youth Commissioners, along with Youth Commission staff, attended Budget 101 trainings led by the SF Budget Justice Coalition. Numerous adult staff from community based organizations were present in these trainings and many participants expressed frustration and confusion on the budget process - even though their organizations were receiving city funding for their programs and services. Witnessing the amount of people who were attending these trainings sharing sentiments of confusion, lack of transparency, and worry relating to the impact of budget cuts on their organizations, led the SFYC to shift to a dominant focus on the budget.

Traditionally, the SFYC does a Budget and Policy Priority (BPP) Report (based on Resolution 2021-AL-02 [*Omnibus Youth Commission Preliminary Budget Priorities - Priority Programs*]) (2) as a way to advise the BOS and the Mayor on the unmet needs of SF youth that leans heavier on the policy side rather than the budget side. However, given the incredible budget deficit as well as the required reduction of departmental budgets by 7.5-10%, the SFYC is prioritizing and focusing specifically

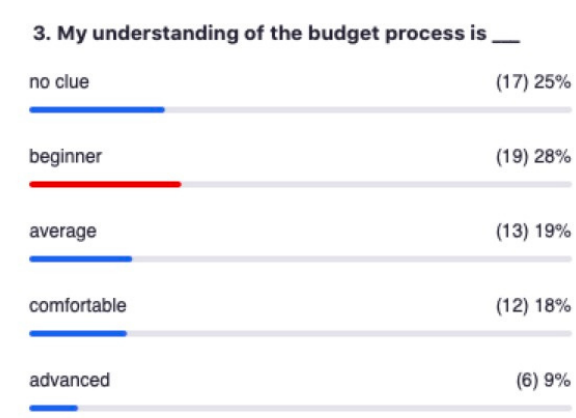
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(2) [https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL02\\_%20Resolution%20Omnibus%20Preliminary%20Budget%20Priorities.pdf](https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL02_%20Resolution%20Omnibus%20Preliminary%20Budget%20Priorities.pdf)

on budget needs this year.

The below summary of the Youth Budget Town Hall will act as codifying the SFYC’s budget recommendations to the BOS and the Mayor and will be presented to the Budget and Appropriations Committee on February 24, 2021 at 3:30pm.

# SF BUDGET 101



The SFYC conducted a poll as participants logged in for the Youth Budget Town Hall and one question asked “My understanding of the budget process is \_\_\_\_” with options they could choose from. Not all participants filled out the poll, but of the 66 who did, **over half** (55% with 36 participants) said that their understanding of the budget process was “no clue” or “beginner”. Knowing that youth and community organizations find the budget

process inaccessible and hard to follow, it’s vital to do a general overview of the budget process before diving into the Youth Budget Town Hall. Commissioners Calvin Quick and Gabbie Listana also led the group in a mini budget breakdown at the event.

The “Annual Appropriation Ordinance”, a local law that states the City must have a balanced budget, kicks off “budget season” with the Mayor’s Budget Instructions. These instructions outline the process for budget season as well as how much City departments must cut their budgets in order for SF to have balanced numbers. According to the Mayor’s Office of Public Policy and Finance presentation the Mayor is requiring “Mandatory departmental reduction proposals of 7.5% in adjusted General Fund support, with an additional 2.5% contingency should fiscal conditions worsen”(3). This means that City Departments who receive General Fund money must reduce their budgets by at least 7.5%-10% for the next two years and, for context, this is as high a reduction as was required during the 2008 Great Recession.

SF now sees itself with a budget deficit due to COVID-19 and has been dipping into the City’s surplus budget to survive this pandemic. City staff, in particular, are worried that lay offs and continued hiring freezes are to be expected, even as

(3) <https://sfmayor.org/sites/default/files/Budget%20Instructions%20Dept%20Heads%20FINAL%20-%20WEB.pdf>

the City sits on money it has in its reserves.



San Francisco has three buckets of money: the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Set Asides. SF's total budget is \$13 billion 682 million - bigger this year than the last - and in 2022-2023 it will go back to \$12.6 billion. The upcoming 2021-2022 year has more money due to the federal money that SF has received from FEMA. Even though SF has seen an increase in its budget, COVID-19 has impacted the City Budget - the City is already 6 months into the fiscal year and the City has a \$411 million dollar deficit.

San Francisco has such a large budget for two reasons (4):

1) half of the City's budget is for Enterprise Departments (San Francisco Airport, Department of Building Inspections, SF Municipal Transportation Authority, Port of SF, Public Utilities Commission, etc.) which are departments that have to use money that comes from their own fees. Simply put, every dollar acquired through these agencies has to be spent in these departments and the money can't be reallocated elsewhere.

2) "set asides" (5) - the City literally sets money aside to pay for specific needs. During elections, San Franciscans vote on ballot measures that set aside sources of funding for a specific reason or goal (ex. The Children's Fund in 1991, 2000, and 2014 and the 2018 Prop C tax on big businesses that will fund homeless services annually).

With this many billions of dollars, how can SF be in a \$411 million deficit? It is the General Fund that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make decisions about every year—public health, police and fire services, and public works get support

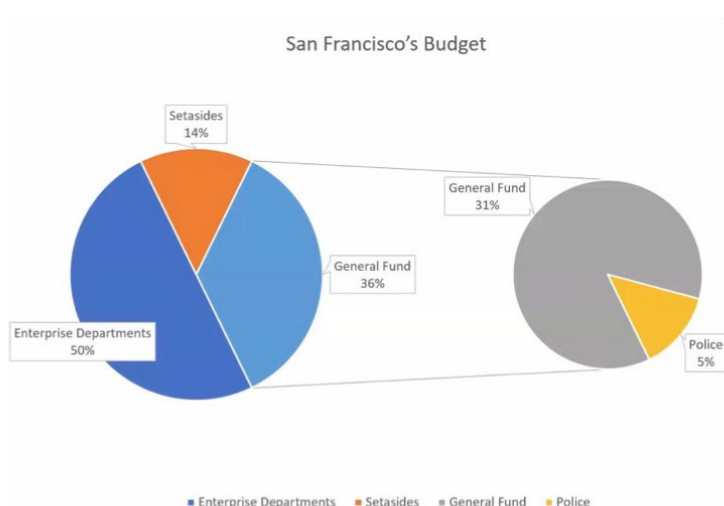
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(4) The City of Philadelphia, which is double the size of SF (with 1.6 million people), has a budget of \$4.7 billion. This is 40% of SF's budget.

(5) To compare SF with other large cities - LA only has 2 set asides, San Diego has 1, and San Jose has 0. SF has 19.

from the General Fund. And as the only combined city and county in California, San Francisco is also responsible for funding and operating jails, courts and hospitals. It also has to pay the salaries of the city's 31,000 workers, including police officers, firefighters, Supervisors, and the Mayor.

It's tricky and elusive as the budget is not what it seems. Enterprise Funds are relegated to the departments who manage their own funds and can't be used elsewhere, Set Asides are untouchable, and the departments that receive General Funds must make difficult choices on how they will reduce their budget by 7.5-10% for the next two years. Given the recent, and vocal, public opinion on defunding the police, it's imperative to point out that even with 36% of the General Funds, 5% of it goes towards funding the SF Police Department (6).



Since City departments have been required to cut their budgets significantly, now is the time to be hyper focused on budget and how it impacts youth, youth resources, and youth programs that many city departments provide.

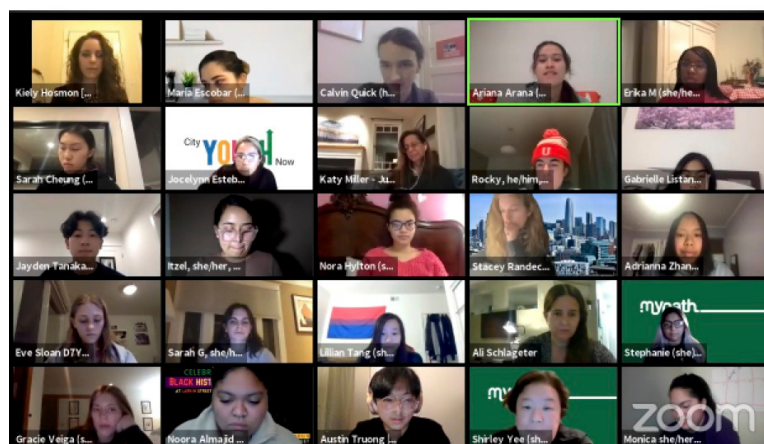
It will be essential to not only maintain budgets that support youth resources and services but to also think critically about existing

budgets that are presently harmful to youth. Two questions need to be asked:

- 1) what values are being upheld with how SF spends its money?
- 2) is money allocated in ways that does not reflect the needs of the community?

Now is the time to foreshadow the budget needs and to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on them.

# YOUTH BUDGET TOWN HALL SUMMARY



## BACKGROUND

Youth Commission staff hold the balance between SFYC’s chartered duties and youth development/leadership best practices. Normally, the SFYC wouldn’t plan an event with limited time, however, given the timing of the Mayor’s budget instructions, winter break, and the SFYC’s Mid Year Retreat the SFYC had only roughly a month to plan for the Youth Budget Town Hall.

Trying to be as youth led as possible “Team Budget” was created and consisted of the following Youth Commissioners: Erika Morris (D10), Gabbie Listana (D6), Calvin Quick (D5), Arsema Asfaw (Mayoral), Adrianna Zhang (D7), and Gracie Veiga (D8). These 6 youth led the rest of the SFYC in planning for the Youth Budget Town Hall with the specific intention of it being youth led and centering youth voices. Most importantly, Commissioners wanted to create a space where adults could listen to youth share what they are concerned about as well as to hear from other adult advocates who work with/support youth via their organizational resources and programs.

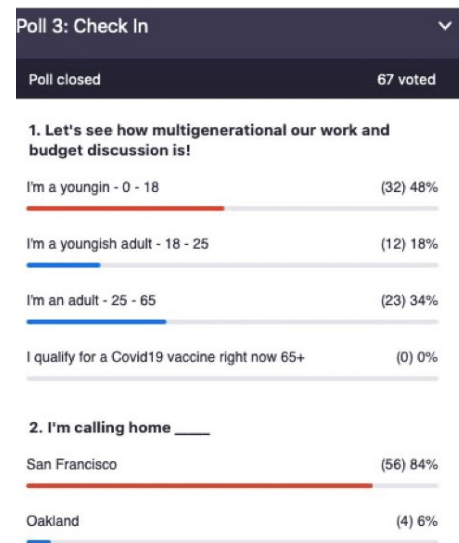
Time	Agenda: Run of Show
5:00pm	Opening Remarks
5:15pm	Youth Budget Advocacy
5:25pm	Breakout Groups
5:45pm	Collective Debrief
6:00pm	Budget Transparency & Accountability Discussion
6:45pm	Resource Share + Announcements
6:55pm	Close Out & Appreciations
7:00pm	Adjourn FYC Meeting

The agenda was created with listening in mind. A two hour Youth Budget Town Hall can not capture all youth input, however, it creates an opening. The Town Hall specifically focused on holding space for youth to share their concerns on certain issues during “Breakout Groups” where adults were encouraged to listen only. Once breakout groups concluded, all participants came back for a debrief

where everyone could hear a summary of what each breakout group discussed. From there, a guided discussion centered on budget transparency and accountability so participants could ask questions to City staff and the Controller's office on the budget process. To conclude the Town Hall, budget resources were shared.

## WHO WAS IN THE "ROOM"?

Considering this could be the only opportunity that adults with decision making power might hear from youth directly, the SFYC did a significant amount of outreach to City staff, youth, and youth serving organizations. The SFYC expected roughly 60 people to be in attendance, however, Zoom registration showed there were **151** participants who attended at various points during the event!



While registration shows 151 participants, with 210 views on Facebook, having the Town Hall be virtual means the data is inherently skewed with participants coming and leaving as they saw fit. The poll was filled out by more than half (57-66 submissions) of the participants who were allowed in the virtual space. The statistical breakdown is a snapshot of who was in the "room" but does not capture the entirety of the participants.

### Age Breakdown (67 responses):

- 48% (32 people) of participants were youth under the age of 18
- 18% (12 people) of participants were transitional aged youth (TAY) between the ages of 18-25
  - **66% (44 youth)** in attendance - merging <18 + TAY
- 34% (23 people) of participants were adults between the ages of 25-65

### Group Breakdown:

- **15 Community Organizations**
  - Chinese Progressive Association, Hunters Point Family, Coleman Advocates for Youth, MyPath, Young Women's Freedom Center, SF Bike Coalition, 3rd Street Youth, League of Women Voters, Horizons SF, Larkin Street Youth Services (staff + Youth Advisory Board members), City Youth Now, CA Youth Connection, CA Youth Center, LYRIC, Chinese Cultural Center of SF, and SF Rising.

- **14 City Departments and Agencies**

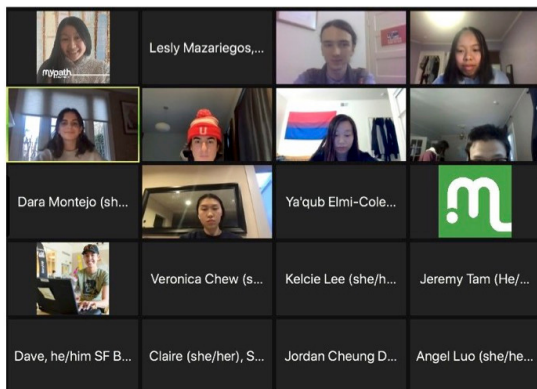
- Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (staff + Oversight and Advisory Committee members), SFUSD's Student Advisory Council,, Adult Probation Department, San Francisco County Transportation Authority, Department of Public Health, D7 Youth Council, Juvenile Probation Department, Our Children Our Family Coalition, Office of Transgender Initiatives, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, the Controller's Office, Public Defenders Office, SF Police Department, and the Juvenile Probation Department.
- A special thank you to Risa Sandler from the Controller's Office who did a short breakdown of the budget process!

- **7 representatives from Elected Officials offices**

- D1 Supervisor Connie Chan, D5 Supervisor Dean Preston, D6 Supervisor Matt Haney, D7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar, D9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen, D10 Board President Shamann Walton, and D11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai.
- A special thank you to Board President Walton for speaking at the Youth Budget Town Hall!

It was a “good problem” to have so many people even though the platform had a limit of 100 allowed. This speaks to two things: 1) it was a learning lesson for the SFYC and 2) it underscores the importance of needing space that centers youth voices in the budget process.

## ISSUE BASED DISCUSSIONS



Once Commissioner Chairs Nora Hylton and Amara Santos welcomed the group to the space, participants were broken up into three different issue based discussion groups:

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Alternatives to Prison Industrial Complex
- 3) Housing & Houselessness

Youth were asked to answer questions and adults were tasked with only listening. These were short 15-20 minute discussions and don't encapsulate the entirety of the issue. More robust discussion is needed to truly understand youth perspectives in a

more nuanced way. Breakout groups were led by Commissioners Erika Morris, Jayden Tanaka, Gracie Veiga, Nora Hylton, Gabbie Listana, Calvin Quick, Sarah Ginsburg, and Adrianna Zhang with a collective debrief led by Commissioners Sarah Cheung and Lillian Tang.

## ***Transportation***

### **Discussion Questions asked:**

- How has COVID impacted your personal life and community?
- What resources have been mobilized or underutilized by your community?
- What youth services are essential and what services do we need post-covid and what support would you like to receive?
- How are you seeing the impact of transportation in your communities (pre-covid or during covid)?
- What transportation related improvement would you like to see in your communities?

Transportation and getting around the city for youth has been hard during COVID due to all the safety precautions.



### **1) Youth want to see *safe transportation for youth when schools reopen***

- Worrisome for youth/people to go back on bus
- What will be the steps for safe transportation?
- What are youth's methods for transportation when in-person school returns? How to better support them from here?
- Some students *need* to take some sort of transportation, so how will youth be supported in this way?

### **2) Youth want to see *more transportation options for youth (biking, scooter), with training and it being affordable***

- Protected bike network so kids can go to school safely
- Expand biking, scooter, etc. programs to other areas

### **3) Youth want to see *youth transportation programs expand to areas where there's no nearby park (but where there's a lot of youth as in the TL and SoMa) and have more streets for biking***

- When can we expand free MUNI for low income youth to make MUNI free for all

youth?

- How are our low-income families and SF residents included in the conversation?
- Are their voices at the forefront of the conversation?

4) Youth want to see **continued health practices, faster and more frequent bus service, speed HSR, etc.**

## ***Alternatives to Prison Industrial Complex***

### Discussion Questions asked:

- What does safety mean to you and what makes you feel safe?
- In what ways has Covid-19 revealed which resources have been mobilized or underutilized by your community?
- What youth services have been proven to be essential (need to stay) & what services do we need post COVID-19?



The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) appears at any level or intersection of it in the ways it manifests in policing, surveillance, and incarceration. Alternatives to the PIC interrupt the cycle of historical and present-day oppression and resource extraction, as revealed in ways in which society has systematically been treating the health and safety concerns through criminalization of behavior and, in extension, people.

The extent of systemic disparities in access to resources have shown how current systems in place do not serve many and have a detrimental impact on young people's sense of emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical safety and stability. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic impact is disproportionately affecting communities of color from health to economic risk. Knowing that those closest to the problems have the most effective solutions, through community dialogue it has highlighted a need to prioritize those needs in responses to get everyone to a point of stability and safety.

### 1) Safety

- Holistic safety that supports young people's emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical wellness
- People do not break the law without reason - what are the root causes?

## 2) COVID19 Resources

- Tenderloin has been impacted as it's been seen independent from the city with a lag in resources
- Distanced learning has greatly impacted communities of color from students, caregivers, and to teachers themselves. Resources need to be expanded to address mental health, job and career counseling, and arts and culture
- Jobs have been impacted with young people taking on jobs to support their families as parents are also facing job loss and eviction
- Not all districts have had rapid COVID-19 activation plans for testing sites and response. Treasure Island has been forgotten so much because of how isolated it is

## 3) For justice system-impacted folks:

- We need to make sure we can provide homes, resources and stabilization pathways that allow people to move beyond survival crimes. "People come back from incarceration and don't break laws but out of necessity. We need to make sure we look out and move them away from necessity." - N
- We need to acknowledge that people currently incarcerated are at direct risk of COVID-19 exposure and are hit with devastating adverse impacts due to isolation and lack of visits in regards to mental health

## 4) Education

- We need to provide mental health support, extended tutoring services for students, job and career counseling, and arts
- We need to pay and compensate social workers, therapists and case managers who do that important front-facing work for our young people

## 5) Families

- We need stipends for families, eviction protection and stable housing so that young people are not forced to find a job to supplement the income and are not displaced
- We need to acknowledge the trauma and stress of COVID19 on families of color



## ***Housing & Houselessness***

### Discussion Questions asked:

- How has COVID-19 impacted your personal life and community?
- What resources have been mobilized or underutilized by your community?
- What youth services are essential (need to stay) & what services do we need post COVID-19? What support would you like to receive?
- What's your biggest concern about youth homelessness in San Francisco?

The immediate solution to homelessness is housing people. The long term and sustainable solution needs to have a multi pronged approach. Meaning, houseless individuals are met with dignity and respect. To young people in San Francisco this looks like decriminalizing poverty, offering Universal Basic Income to everyone including youth, and addressing mental health and wellness at every level of support. SF's systems need to be intrinsically connected to be able to support houseless youth. The current systems that are available are bureaucratic, confusing, and not widely available. The pandemic and current climate change has proven to legislatures that this issue can no longer be supported by band aid solutions. Young people in San Francisco and around the country need immediate action, housing and access to proper hygiene are basic human rights.



1) Youth want to see the **implementation of Universal Basic Income** and have it be expanded to **include young people as early as 16 years old**

- Low-income youth in San Francisco financially support their families

2) Houseless youth need more than just housing. They need **wrap-around support from organizations and systems they can trust**

- This includes a deep focus to addressing mental health issues in youth and adult individuals

3) Young people want an **expansion of Shelter in Place Hotels** for houseless individuals

- Why doesn't this currently include young people in San Francisco?

4) Young people in San Francisco demand an investment towards houseless individuals

- San Francisco is a wealthy and innovative city

## BUDGET TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY DISCUSSION

Prior to the Youth Budget Town Hall, the SFYC sent out a three question intake form to those who were interested in attending the event (7). One aspect of this form allowed people to put in their own questions they had about the budget process and timeline. Many of the questions could be broken down into two buckets 1) about the budget process in general and 2) how and when to do budget advocacy. This reflects the same theme at the beginning of this report where over half (55% with 36 participants) said that their understanding of the budget process was “no clue” or “beginner”.



Knowing there was a budget knowledge gap with participants, the SFYC created an opportunity where those with limited budget knowledge could speak directly to City staff and officials who work on either Department budgets or the City budget as a whole.

Commissioners Adrianna Zhang and Ariana Arana eased the group into a Budget Transparency and Accountability discussion

with a few questions that were proposed by some answering the intake form:

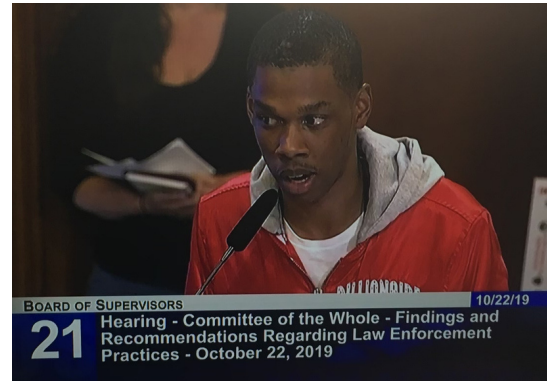
**1) "What are your priorities when determining the city budget and how much of that is grounded in community input?"**

Emily Cohen, the Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) agreed that the budget is a huge policy statement and reflects the priorities and values of the city. While understanding that there will be a budget shortfall, Director Cohen stated that “our two main priorities are permanent supportive housing as a solution to homelessness along with preservation of beds and services”. With regard to community input, HSH has had 3 public meetings, have met with providers, advocacy groups, and with different stakeholders. Director Cohen said HSH is excited to work with the Youth Commission on its recommendations.

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(7) 1. What break out room would you like to participate in? 2. What questions do you have about the City's budget process? (i.e. timeline, general process, decision makers, opportunities for advocacy) 3. What questions would like to ask to an Elected Official or Dept. Head?

## 2) “How can we participate as the general public alongside these processes?”

Katy Miller, the Director at the Juvenile Probation Department (JPD), and Colin Kimzey, staff for the Department of Children Youth and Families Community Engagement Team, both mentioned that budget presentations had been taking place to their respective commission or oversight body and that members of the public could watch, listen, and give public comment during these presentations.



Instructions from the Mayor emphasized a departmental commitment to racial equity. Director Miller acknowledged the majority of youth in the juvenile justice system are youth of color and most of JPD’s staff are people of color - the goal for JPD is to build a budget that meets the intentions of the City that also supports youth, their families, and JPD staff to do their work successfully.

Similarly, DCYF traditionally has an in depth 5 year planning cycle with one aspect focused on community feedback via “family summits” for youth and families to give input to the department. However, with COVID-19, this previously gathered data doesn’t correlate to current issues and DCYF is redoing these family summits for new data. Colin also shared in the chat that “...the Children & Youth Fund is primarily from property taxes which has been relatively stable compared to other city funding sources”.

Mollie Matull, the DCYF Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) Chair, shared that OAC members ask questions and then agree that they forward it on, but cautioned the group they don’t have much decision making authority as they only advise.



### 3) “How do we recover from COVID-19 and how will work from home and people moving from San Francisco impact city budget and city services?”



Community members chimed in with this question and a Larkin Youth Advisory Board member shared the City can now take over condemned buildings and should be used for transitional or permanent housing. In the chat, someone expressed a concern “...that youth need low-income apartments similar to the ones we have for seniors in order to be financially stable after the pandemic. Many youth are unemployed which is very concerning because they can become homeless soon or later in the road”.

Ali Schlageter, HSH staff affirmed this by writing “We know that housing is healthcare and the Department is committed to maintaining and expanding housing for youth, adults, and families.”

A youth staff person from the community organization MyPath, wrote “If youth are participating in the economy- I believe they should be included in this conversation. A Universal Basic Income (UBI) conversation is happening in different cities...we need to listen to their [youth] needs and include them in economic recovery conversations such as a UBI. Is there anything about UBI that can be included in the budget or already is?” Risa, Controller's office staff, shared that “the Mayor's office is working on the budget for the upcoming two years...it seems far away but it takes a long time to build a budget. Now is the time to reach out, share input, and attend hearings.”

JPD Director Miller, acknowledged that COVID-19 has already had a significant impact on JPD’s budget. They’ve had to take precautions to protect everyone from getting sick (spreading youth out into units in very small numbers, quarantining those who might be sick or exposed, etc.) and have used their budget for increased tech usage (youth taking classes, meeting with families, and attending court remotely).

Before they can even think about getting youth back on their feet, JPD must focus on the above plus use funds to get gift cards to youth and their families to help make ends meet. These actions are more about short term solutions and not about long term recovery, which is also needed.

With regard to transportation, Michelle Beaulieu, SF County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) staff, named that transit has taken a big hit due to social distancing

and many working from home, making ridership lower, which means fair revenue has dropped. SFMTA has been impacted by dropped fares significantly and is working closely with the SFCTA (which is separate from the city and county of SF and follow a different budget process) to keep services for those who need it now (eg. those who don't have access to cars or can't bike/walk to places) along with making sure the city is ready for when it moves into recovery mode.



**4) “How do the BOS, the Mayor, and possibly even City Departments, plan to incorporate the Youth Commission's Budget recommendations and feedback from this Town Hall?”**

Tracy Gallardo, D10 Legislative Aide - their office meets regularly with SFYC staff and the D10 Commissioner and will do their best to make sure it gets in the budget process and they are open and committed to pushing youth issues forward.

Geoffrea Morris, D11 Legislative Aide - Supervisor Safai is Vice Chair of the Budget Committee and she is listening to all the concerns raised tonight to bring back to him. Geoffrea mentioned she will also make connections with the SFYC and to Joi Jackson Morgan, Director of the 3rd Street Youth Clinic, since this organization is lead support for the new TAY Navigation Center.

Jen Snyder, D5 Legislative Aide - D5 office sees SFYC's priorities directly relating to equity issues and are 100% on the same page. Their office is happy to schedule meetings with the SFYC to talk about different levers to pull.

Prishni Murillo, DCYF staff, wrote in the chat “At DCYF, the YC's budget and policy priorities are shared with Director Su and Senior Staff so that they understand and use them in their planning”.

*Once the above questions were answered, the Commissioners opened up the space to youth, and staff from youth serving organizations, to ask their questions directly to City officials and City staff.*

5) “What does the future look like for youth who are low income, incarcerated, etc. in need of money on the budget spectrum?” and “Do you believe that those youth need more than financial capability (8)?”

Ali from HSH highlighted financial empowerment isn’t what HSH provides but that they have recently partnered with the Office of Financial Empowerment to provide 1:1 financial coaching, smart money coaching, support with opening bank accounts, and reducing credit barriers with their Rapid Rehousing Program (a program that supports youth experiencing homelessness by providing rental subsidies).

This has been one of the most successful partnerships they’ve had and are now looking at how much financial capacity intersects with long term stability and ending a young person’s homelessness permanently.

6) “When will Universal Basic Income for non home-owners and residents making under \$150,000/year before taxes be implemented in the mayor's budget for the city of San Francisco (9)? Can this be pushed in a ballot measure or with community support?”

Jen Snyder, D5 Legislative Aide, said Supervisor Matt Haney’s office is lead on this and there is movement on the issue. Tracy, D10 Legislative Aide, said that Supervisor Walton’s office is working on this especially for those who have been systems involved. Tracy is hopeful there will be something in the Mayor’s budget regarding a UBI.

Community feedback was also given regarding this question. Someone wrote “Youth have been deeply impacted themselves by layoffs and are economically vulnerable. We can ensure money earmarked for youth workforce agencies get protected and that money gets into the pockets or bank accounts of youth. And if young adults were given a universal basic income, this would help with decreasing youth incarceration, housing issues and rising transportation costs.” Two others chimed in saying they wanted undocumented folks to be eligible, as well as non-homeowners including young adults, for a UBI.

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(8) Financial capability - having their own bank account without any custody + having their own access to financial education, resources on how to handle their money, etc.

(9) The SFYC supports a UBI: [https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1920-AL-16\\_FINAL%20RESOLUTION\\_Universal%20Basic%20Income%20Program.pdf](https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1920-AL-16_FINAL%20RESOLUTION_Universal%20Basic%20Income%20Program.pdf)

## 7) "Are there plans for the police budget to be cut?"

Risa, staff at the Controller's office answered with "Mayor's Office and the BOS approved \$60 million a year be removed from SFPD's budget." This was the largest reduction Risa has ever seen in this department.

Director Miller stated that the Human Resources Commission is overseeing the process with community members with how to reinvest these funds.

## NEXT STEPS

At the end of the Youth Budget Town Hall, a short evaluation poll was distributed with a question that focused on learning. Out of 57 responses:

- 42% (24 responses) said this town hall definitely helped them learn about the budget process and timeline
- 49% (28 responses) said this town hall helped them learn more than they knew before



In this two hour event, the SFYC helped almost 100% of those who filled out the poll to better understand the general budget process! A visible gap of knowledge exists and the SFYC asked a follow up question on what youth and community members would like to see next from the Youth Commission:

- 65% (37 responses) more **skill shares** such as a youth accessible budget training
- 56% (32 responses) more call to actions
- 47% (27 responses) another youth budget townhall
- 44% (25 responses) department hearings watch parties
- 42% (24 responses) public comment watch parties

In order for youth voices, and for adults who work with youth, to truly impact the budget process, there has to be a basic understanding and grasp of the issue at hand. Education and learning must come first, or at least at the same time, as advocacy efforts.

The SFYC is committed to its chartered duty of advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on the unmet needs of SF youth. One way that SFYC does this is to present its *Omnibus Youth Commission Preliminary Budget Priorities - Priority Programs Resolution* to City Commissions with budgets that might impact youth (10). In the month of February, Youth Commissioners have presented to or met with the:

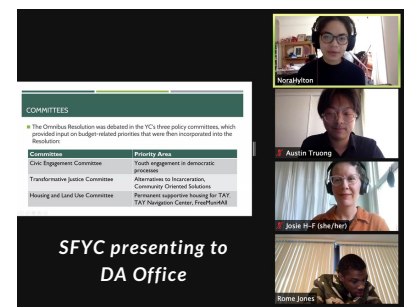
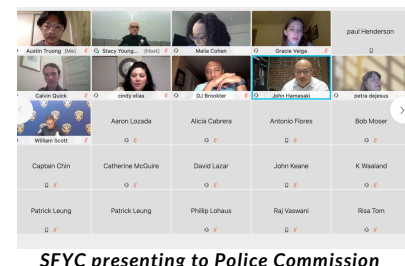
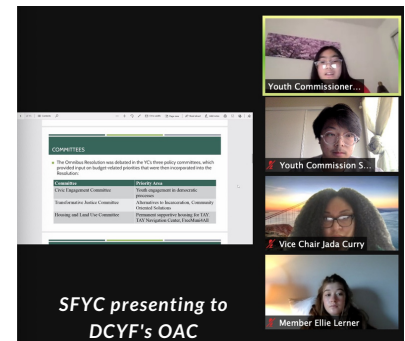
- District Attorney's Safety & Justice Challenge
- Police Commission
  - (who rejected the SFPD budget proposal)
- Juvenile Probation Commission
- Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing
- SFMTA & their Citizen Oversight Committee
- DCYF's Oversight and Advisory Committee
  - (No impact to CBOs who have DCYF grants)
- Department of Public Health

Youth Commissioners inform these Commissions of their recommendations (*see addendum*), assess the information given to them by the Departments, and then present back to the BOS and the Mayor via the Budget and Appropriations Committee with their feedback (12).

## CONCLUSION

It is abundantly clear to the SFYC that **transparency and education** is sorely needed for youth and for staff at youth serving organizations to understand the City's budget and budget process. There have been recent strides in creating a clearer picture of SF's budget and opening it up to the public (11), however, it is still inherently inaccessible for youth and adults (who are not in the budget/financial world) to comprehend.

The SFYC will continue to build its focus on budget advising and advocacy efforts. It hears the call to action to help youth (and adults) better understand the budget process, support general public comment, support during department hearings, as well as coordinate future Youth Budget Town Halls.



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(10) [https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-02\\_%20Resolution%20Omnibus%20Preliminary%20Budget%20Priorities.pdf](https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/2021-AL-02_%20Resolution%20Omnibus%20Preliminary%20Budget%20Priorities.pdf)

(11) BOS File No. 191072 [Administrative Code - Budget Approval Process] <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4205653&GUID=ED79763D-6EAC-419A-9BAA-E6C5A6C837BE&Options=ID|Text|&Search=191072>

(12) Video of this presentation (starting at 1:02 mark) [https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=207&clip\\_id=37892](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=207&clip_id=37892)

As the Budget Justice Coalition states “An informed and engaged public is integral to full and open budget deliberations, and to the development of a budget that reflects the community’s priorities and values.” The San Francisco Youth Commission is ready to inform, and engage, youth in the budget process!

*“An informed and engaged public is integral to full and open budget deliberations, and to the development of a budget that reflects the community’s priorities and values.” - Budget Justice Coalition*

## CONNECT, CREATE, AND COLLABORATE WITH US

### FULL YOUTH COMMISSION | 1ST & 3RD MON @ 5 PM

Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people.



#Vote16SF

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE | 2ND & 4TH MON @ 4:30 PM

The Civic Engagement Committee inspires youth to participate in San Francisco’s democracy by expanding youth civic representation via Vote16.

Members: Sarah Cheung (Chair), Sarah Ginsburg (Vice Chair), Rocky Versace, Adrianna Zhang, Ariana Arana, Valentina Alioto-Pier  
Staff Contact: Kiely.Hosmon@sfgov.org

### HOUSING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE | 2ND & 4TH TUES @ 4:30 PM

The Housing and Land Use Committee advocates for housing and supportive services for youth, while holding the City and County accountable to its commitments to resolving youth homelessness, and for creating equitable transportation options for young people in San Francisco.

Members: Erika Morris (Chair), Plyfaa Suwanamalik-Murphy (Vice Chair), Calvin Quick, Jayden Tanaka, Lillian Tang  
Staff Contact: Itzel.Estrada@sfgov.org

#FreeMuni4All



### TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE | 2ND & 4TH MON @ 5 PM

The Transformative Justice Committee of the San Francisco Youth Commission is a determined and imaginative group of young people that are striving to build cooperative and compassionate relationships with the community to eliminate youth incarceration. We acknowledge that the current systems in place do not serve all of us and we hope to shift the conversations and dynamics to how people can live and thrive. It is part of our radical values that we can and should center humanity in the City’s budget and policy priorities.

Members: Rome Jones (Chair), Gracie Veiga (Vice Chair), Amara Santos, Arsema Asfaw, Nora Hylton, Gabrielle Listana  
Staff Contact: Austin.Truong@sfgov.org





## Memorandum

**TO:** Nora Hylton, Chair (SFYC)  
**cc:** Youth Commission Staff

**FROM:** Calvin Quick, LAO (SFYC)

**RE:** Summary of Preliminary Budget Recommendations (2021 Season)  
**DATE:** January 4, 2021

☐ IMMEDIATE RESPONSE NEEDED    ☒ PLEASE REVIEW    ☐ FYI

Dear Chair and Staff,

Please find attached an updated and finalized summary detailing all preliminary budget-related recommendations adopted by the Youth Commission in YC File No. 2021-AL-02 [Omnibus Youth Commission Preliminary Budget Priorities - Priority Programs] at the full Youth Commission meeting of January 4, 2021. This summary reflects all the information contained in the resolution itself, as recommended by the Youth Commission's policy committees and by myself, with emphasis added for clarity.

This summary does not include costings for recommendations, although Youth Commission committees and staff continue to work on preparing those where we are able, and will include them in future communications as available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

I remain respectfully yours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin Quick", written over a horizontal line.

Calvin Quick  
Youth Commissioner, District 5  
Legislative Affairs Officer (LAO)  
San Francisco Youth Commission

Email: [calvin@quickstonian.com](mailto:calvin@quickstonian.com)  
Phone: 1(415) 521-9126

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*Note: all recommendations relate to Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.*

### **Recommendations of the Civic Engagement Committee (1-3)**

The Civic Engagement Committee recommends the following amendments to the Omnibus Resolution, reflecting that the Youth Commission:

1. urges the Department of Elections to continue to include funding for **youth voter outreach and voter pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds**;
2. urges the BOS to support a potential Charter Amendment to **expand the voting population to citizen and/or non-citizen 16- and 17-year-olds** in San Francisco Board of Education and/or municipal elections while ensuring confidentiality and their safety; and
3. urges DCYF to including funding to implement **fee waivers for California ID and Driver's License applications** at the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **Recommendations of the Transformative Justice Committee (4-24)**

The Transformative Justice Committee recommends the following amendments to the Omnibus Resolution, reflecting that the Youth Commission:

4. urges APD to increase funding for **re-entry programs and services** that support youths' basic physical, mental, social-emotional, and educational needs, such as the Interrupt, Predict, and Organize program for young adults, with a focus on employment resources, daycare, mental health and counseling support, housing navigation services, and educational resources;
5. urges APD to propose funding to **maintain and expand the Young Adult Court and compensate the TAY seat on the Re-entry Council**;
6. urges DCYF to propose funding for **socially distanced food and PPE distribution, programming and educational services** for COVID-19 community pods, **health and mental health care, substance use support**, and other wrap-around services, particularly targeting youth, caregivers, and families who have had contact with the justice system;
7. urges DCYF to increase funding for justice programs that support **leadership skill-building and workforce development**, particularly targeting children, women, caregivers, and families who have had contact with the justice system;

8. urges DPA to increase funding for programs to increase **community visibility and outreach on Know Your Rights trainings** for youth and youth service providers;
9. urges DPH to propose funding for **COVID-19 pandemic relief and programming for food insecurity and PPE distribution** particularly targeting youth, caregivers, and families who have had contact with the justice system and frontline essential and agricultural workers;
10. urges **DPH to eliminate all funding for the Sheriff's Department** and reallocate all funds that are saved by such cuts to expanded nurse staffing, trauma-informed security, Behavioral Emergency Response Team expansion, patient advocates, DPH CLB projects, community-based de-escalation and trauma-informed care training, additional discharge needs, and CLB salaries, as specified in the DPH Must Divest Coalition's Alternatives to Sheriffs Proposal, along with funding for language access in respect to patient care and navigation of services;
11. urges DPH to include funding to add a **compensated seat for youth and TAY patients on the CLB** and ensure that undocumented patients receiving care are included and compensated on the CLB;
12. urges HSH to propose funding sufficient to create and maintain a **minimum of 100 units of permanent supportive housing for girl shelters** to avoid out of county placements after contact with the juvenile justice system;
13. urges HSH to propose funding for **permanent supportive housing options and wrap-around services** for unhoused community members and youth with experiences in the criminal and juvenile justice system;
14. urges JPD to collaborate with other agencies and community-based organizations to propose funding for COVID-19 testing and screening measures, gender-specific programming, employment resources, rehabilitative and educational programs, mental health and counseling, after-detention rehabilitation and healing support and services, and community-based programs for youth and families;
15. urges JPD to collaborate with other agencies and community-based organizations to propose funding for **alternatives to incarceration and the release of young people to local jurisdictions and/or community support hubs** due to current COVID-19 conditions, given that California's state youth correctional system, the Division of Juvenile Justice, has failed to respond sufficiently to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on youths' safety;
16. urges OEWD to collaborate with other agencies and community-based organizations to propose funding for **business entrepreneurship investment funds and mentorship resources** for youth previously involved in the criminal and juvenile justice system;
17. urges the District Attorney's Office to propose funds for **alternatives to incarceration that center community health and safety**, such as language capacity advocates, advanced legal support for undocumented individuals and TAY, victims' rights advocates, wrap-around services including but not limited to safety planning, relocation assistance, and restorative justice support, and decarceration and early release initiatives, especially in light of COVID-19;

18. urges SFPD to propose funds for **mandatory in-depth youth and TAY rights training** that incorporates youth brain development through an equity and trauma-informed lens;
19. urges SFPD to propose funds for **Know Your Rights trainings and community advisory workgroups** to have in-depth community engagement and feedback, in the interest of fostering more positive and fair interactions between law enforcement and youth, in which both parties are aware of their rights and responsibilities;
20. urges SFPD to propose funds for **redistribution to youth who have experienced harm** from contact with the justice system, and for community advisory workgroups to have in-depth community engagement and feedback on the reinvestment of funds;
21. urges the Mayor and BOS to **cut the SFPD budget by a minimum of 50%** relative to the SFPD budget for FY 2020-2021 and reallocate funds to programs outside of the SFPD that provide public safety in a non-carceral, care-centered manner, including, but not limited to additional mental health first responders and unarmed de-escalation specialists;
22. urges the Mayor and BOS to **allocate 50% of all funds cut from the SFPD budget to a “Community and People’s Budget”** in which a percentage is set aside for social and community-centered services such as mental health services, community and City programs for youth employment including undocumented and previously incarcerated youth, and housing for the communities most impacted by violence and incarceration;
23. urges the Mayor and BOS to **allocate 20% of all funds cut from the SFPD budget** to hire social workers and trauma-informed counselors **to aid victims of sexual misconduct**; and
24. urges the Mayor and BOS to **allocate 30% of all funds cut from the SFPD budget to SFUSD schools and Wellness Centers** to hire mental health professionals, with an equitable focus for schools with a high percentage of Black and Latinx youth in order to ensure they are equipped with the physical, mental, emotional and communal tools to thrive beyond their education.

### **Recommendations of the Housing and Land Use Committee (25-41)**

The Housing and Land Use Committee recommends the following amendments (relative to youth homelessness) to the Omnibus Resolution, reflecting that the Youth Commission:

25. urges HSH to propose funding sufficient to create and maintain a **minimum of 400 units of permanent supportive housing** for TAY;
26. urges HSH to propose funding to ensure that **TAY-specific services** are being provided **at Safe Sleeping Sites and Shelter-In-Place hotels**;
27. urges HSH, OEWD, DCYF, and DPH to propose funding for **mental health and substance use treatment and counseling programs**, particularly targeting TAY experiencing homelessness or living in supportive housing;
28. urges HSH to continue funding for equipping TAY experiencing homelessness with first-aid survival resources, and for increased support services for nutritional food, laundry, and transportation for that population;

29. urges HSH, DCYF, and other relevant departments to propose funding for **increased technological support** for TAY, including, but not limited to, access to adequate technology and internet access and/or resources for internet saving-programs for TAY experiencing homelessness in permanent supportive housing and Transitional Living Programs;
30. urges HSH to collaborate with other agencies and community-based organizations to continue increasing funding for **employment training** for TAY, programs for **life training and job readiness** for TAY, financial support for **education resources** for TAY, and **employment programs** for TAY during the pandemic-induced economic downturn;
31. urges DCYF to include funding for **support for General Educational Development (GED) and college matriculation** for TAY experiencing homelessness and/or youth who have challenges with remote learning, as well as **tutoring services** for TAY accessing higher education and attending virtual classes;
32. urges HSH to propose funding for **more accessible drop-in centers** for TAY experiencing homelessness to enter a supportive system, including listening and responding to community concerns about the confusing and non-transparent Coordinated Entry for Youth triage system;
33. urges HSH to include funding for **greater flexibility with Problem Solving** dollars administered through Youth Access Points in the Coordinated Entry system;
34. urges HSH to include funding to maintain and operate **more than one TAY-specific Navigation Center**, in districts where there are many youth experiencing homelessness;
35. urges HSH to include funding to provide TAY-specific **mental health and other supportive services** at all TAY-specific Navigation Centers; and
36. urges HSH to include funding for **hazard pay** for employees of service providers during COVID-19, given current working situations.

The Housing and Land Use Committee also recommends the following amendments (relative to transportation) to the Omnibus Resolution, reflecting that the Youth Commission:

37. urges the SFMTA and SFCTA to propose funding to **establish a strategy to build an effective, equitable, and sustainable transportation system** for San Francisco youth and students;
38. urges the SFMTA to propose funding for a full-time **youth development position** to staff the SFMTA Youth Transportation Advisory Board (YTAB) and support youth serving on the YTAB;
39. urges the SFMTA to propose funding to work collaboratively with SFUSD and CCSF to **enroll all students and youth in the Free Muni for Youth** program;
40. urges the SFMTA to propose funding to **implement Free Muni for All Youth** by eliminating the nominal youth fare up to age 23; and
41. urges the SFMTA to increase funding for the 29-Sunset Improvements Project with the view of developing a rapid bus service along the aforementioned line.

## **Additional (Author) Recommendations (42-45)**

The author recommends the following additional amendments to the Omnibus Resolution, which were prepared outside of the committee process, reflecting that the Youth Commission:

42. urges HSH and DPH to **apportion funding from the Our City Our Home Fund** (established by Proposition C from November 2018) **to services and housing for youth and families experiencing homelessness according to the proportions set out by the voters** in the Proposition that established the aforementioned fund, and as upheld by the Our City Our Home Oversight Committee in its Immediate Needs Initial Recommendations report from December 15, 2020;
43. urges all departments that contain Boards, Commissions, and other advisory bodies with one or more youth and/or TAY seat(s) to request funding to provide **compensatory stipends for all youth and TAY serving on such Boards, Commissions, and other advisory bodies**, within the limits of the law;
44. urges the BOS to maintain current levels of funding for **community outreach by the Youth Commission**; and
45. urges the Board of Supervisors to include funding to **raise the salary of all Youth Commission staff** over 100% AMI to enable the commission to retain long-standing staff with valuable institutional memory.

## **Next Steps**

Having adopted the above recommendations at the January 4, 2021 full Youth Commission meeting, the Youth Commission, its staff, officers, and individual commissioners will advocate for the recommendations to be reflected in the final budget by intervening with stakeholders and decisions-makers at the various stages of the budget cycle.

## **Index of Acronyms**

### **Acronym**

APD

BOS

CCSF

CLB

DCYF

DPA

DPH

HSH

JPD

OEWD

PPE

SFCTA

SFMTA

SFPD

SFUSD

TAY

### **Reference**

Adult Probation Department

Board of Supervisors

City College of San Francisco

Community Leadership Board

Department of Children, Youth, and their Families

Department of Police Accountability

Department of Public Health

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Juvenile Probation Department

Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Personal Protective Equipment

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

San Francisco Police Department

San Francisco Unified School District

Transitional-Aged Youth