



Community Letter in Support of the Youth Commission Remaining in the San Francisco City Charter

We believe that the SFYC's presence in the City Charter gives it a shield of protection from what youth are far too familiar with: being silenced, ignored, and pushed aside. Outside of San Francisco there are unprotected youth advisory bodies that are unable to discuss items without explicit permission from their appointing officers, have very limited focuses, and/or can't advise on youth legislation, giving them the sense of performative youth representation.

The fact of the matter is, youth below the age of 18 are the largest disenfranchised population in San Francisco, with the SFYC being one of the only platforms for all 113,000 youth voices to be heard. Unlike the various other youth bodies, the SFYC is protected by our City Charter as the centralized youth body to boldly advocate for all young San Franciscans directly to our most powerful City leaders.

This allows our Commissioners to build critical relationships with these City leaders to ensure they legislate in a way that benefits all of our City's youth. For this reason, we strongly believe that the Youth Commission **should remain a city chartered commission that directly advises the Board of Supervisors and Mayor, and should have the opportunity to be compensated** for equitable access and their contribution to the City & County of San Francisco.

Signed,

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic
Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence (BWRADV)
Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)
Coleman Advocates
Community Youth Center of San Francisco (CYC)
Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth (HOMEY)
Huckleberry Youth Programs
MyPath
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC)

San Francisco Public Defender's Office
San Francisco Rising (SFR)
San Francisco Transit Riders (SFTR)
Seamless Bay Area

Aseel Fara, Immigrant Rights Commissioner* & D6 Resident*
Cassandra James, Solano County Board of Supervisors*
Claire Amable, SFBC Director of Advocacy*
Connie Chow, Huckleberry Restorative Case Manager*
Dylan Fabris, SFTR Community and Policy Manager*
Emma Hegenbart
Geoffrey Winder, Coleman Advocates Interim Executive Director*
Jennifer Longley, Community Member*
Kimberly Kollwitz, Community Member*
Itzel Estrada, Community Member*
Melissa A. Padilla, Human Rights Attorney & Advocate*
Valeria Esparza, Community Member*
Wendy Pacheco, Trainer & Consultant*