

## **SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION - JOY ZHAN**

Good afternoon Task Force members. My name is Joy Zhan, and I'm a Commission staff for the San Francisco Youth Commission as their Youth Development Specialist. First, I'd like to thank the Task Force staff for believing in the Youth Commission mission and recommending to eliminate the language that prevents the Commissioners from being compensated.

But next, I'd like to push back on several recommendations. We do not believe that the seat numbers should be reduced from 17 to 15, both would be Mayoral appointments with the chartered mandate to appoint from underrepresented communities. Working with the Board legislative aides and knowing that we had a record number of applicants of 154, much higher than any other Commissions and bodies, I've seen how the Board has to make difficult decisions of only appointing 1 Commissioner amongst MANY qualified youth, and cutting these seats will be detrimental to uplifting youth voices throughout San Francisco and especially marginalized communities.

We also do not believe that the Youth Commission should be moved from the City Charter to the Administrative Code, and we do not believe that there should be a 3-year sunset date, as that will go against the will of the voters that put the Youth Commission in the Charter in 1996, and will eliminate the independence that the Youth Commission works to uplift all youth voices. We are concerned that if the Youth Commission is to have to sunset date and is in the admin code, the Commission will be at the will of future elected officials rather than the will of the youth and the voters.

As a staff, I've had the privilege to train and develop young leaders to their fullest potential, and to see them serve the public and spread their love and dedication for public service to other young people. This Commission is a bridge between youth and government, and we urge the Task Force to listen to OUR recommendations and experiences, and to help us continue the work of the Youth Commission as a chartered independent 17-seat Commission for the youth of San Francisco. Thank you!