



San Francisco Youth Commission

Minutes~Draft

Monday, June 1st, 2020

5:45 pm-8:45 pm

Public Comment Call-in:

+1 415-906-4659

United States, San Francisco (Toll)

Conference ID: 501 175 742#

There will be public comment on each item.

Sarah Cheung, Valentina Alioto-Pier, Maggie Dong, Josephine Cureton, Calvin Quick, Khatab Alameri, Crystal Chan, JoJo Ty, Ariana Arana, Rome Jones, Amara Santos, Arianna Nassiri, Nora Hylton, Stephen “Rocky” Versace, Arsema Asfaw, Alexander Hirji, Sarah Ginsburg

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance (Discussion and Possible Action)

At 5:45 PM Youth Commission meeting Convenes.

Sarah Cheung (Vice Chair) and Josephine Cureton (Chair) reads the Beginning Statement:

SC: Good evening and welcome to the San Francisco Youth Commission’s first digital meeting since the outbreak of COVID-19.

This pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on San Francisco, and we, as the City’s only chartered youth advisory body, are committed to advocating for the rights, needs, and voices of all San Francisco youth in this crisis. During this time, COVID-19 has affected us all but especially has disproportionately impacted communities of color, so it’s important for us to leverage our power and continue our work advocating for an equitable and healthy San Francisco. Our hearts go out to all of the people who have been impacted by the pandemic and all those who live with the constant fear of racist violence. We also want to thank all essential workers and medical staff that are risking their lives to make sure that their communities stay safe and healthy.



JC: We want to also take this time to acknowledge that our city's bureaucratic systems are built on racism, most notably anti-blackness, especially institutionalized in our police department. Our city has a track record of police brutality, environmental racism, and gentrification, among many other injustices towards BIPOC. This current onslaught of outrage is not just a result of the murders of George Floyd, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor - it is a buildup of tensions from countless incidents of police brutality, hate crimes towards the Black community, and a system that enforces white supremacy. We support peaceful protesting and standing in solidarity with our African American community, keeping in mind that our City's residents are already hurting from economic loss. We know that our struggles are connected. Now we urge our community, especially those of us who are not Black, to show up and speak out. If you have the capacity, we urge you to safely protest, donate to abolitionists, bail relief, and legal aid organizations, educate yourself and others around systemic racism, and demand action from the government at all levels. Let us all, do the hard work of interrupting racism in ourselves, our families, and communities.

Together, we will win justice and safety for BIPOC and that will bring justice and safety to all of us.

Commissioners, we hope that everyone has been taking our time off to take care of your family, your community, and ourselves.

Let's Begin.

Roll Call for Attendance: All are present, quorum is met.

Sarah Cheung, present
Valentina Alioto-Pier, present
Maggie Dong, present
Josephine Cureton, present
Calvin Quick, present
Khatab Alameri, present
Crystal Chan, present
JoJo Ty, present
Ariana Arana, present
Rome Jones, present
Amara Santos, present
Arianna Nassiri, present
Nora Hylton, present
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, present
Arsema Asfaw, present
Alexander Hirji, present
Sarah Ginsburg, present

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)



No Public Comment. Commissioner Quick, seconded by Commissioner Santos, motioned to approve with the amendment of item 7D-E to 7C-D. By roll call vote, the motion passes.

Sarah Cheung, aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye
Maggie Dong, aye
Josephine Cureton, aye
Calvin Quick, aye
Khatab Alameri, aye
Crystal Chan, aye
JoJo Ty, aye
Ariana Arana, aye
Rome Jones, aye
Amara Santos, aye
Arianna Nassiri, aye
Nora Hylton, aye
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, aye
Arsema Asfaw, aye
Alexander Hirji, aye
Sarah Ginsburg, aye

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. March 2nd, 2020
[\(Document A\)](#)

No public comment. Commissioner Hylton, seconded by Commissioner Quick, motioned to approve the minutes. By Roll Call vote, the motion has been approved.

Sarah Cheung, aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye
Maggie Dong, aye
Josephine Cureton, aye
Calvin Quick, aye
Khatab Alameri, aye
Crystal Chan, aye
JoJo Ty, aye
Ariana Arana, aye
Rome Jones, aye
Amara Santos, aye
Arianna Nassiri, aye
Nora Hylton, aye
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, aye
Arsema Asfaw, aye
Alexander Hirji, aye



Sarah Ginsburg, aye

4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (2 minutes per public comment)

No public comment.

5. Legislation Referred from the Board of Supervisors (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. [Input + Decision] BOS File No.200477 [Charter Amendment - 16- and 17-Year-Olds Voting in Municipal Elections] Sponsors: Supervisors Yee, Ronen, Fewer, Haney, Walton, Mar, and Safai
Presenter: Civic Engagement Committee
(Document B)

Commissioner Cheung-amendment of the voting age to 16, able to vote in all citywide elections (BOS, School Board, props)

Commissioner Arana -Vote16 current updates, legislation introduced on May 12th, currently sending out endorsement requests to CBOS, unions, and neighborhood associations.

Commissioner Ginsburg-32 endorsements from CBOs, 13 elected officials, 8 BOS co sponsorship with 2 BOS supporting.

Commissioner Alioto-Pier: next steps, possibly June 29th might be at Rules Committee, continue with endorsements, lobbying all BOS members, canvassing (based on rules), phone banking and lobbying

Commissioner Nassiri-support via social media, transitioning to Youth Empowerment Academy, attending press conferences, town halls, dialogue, learn the talking points, main power right now is word of mouth

Commissioner Cheung: please speak in public comment at any meetings forthcoming

No Discussion.

No public comment.

Commissioner Nassiri motions to support the legislation, seconded by Commissioner Quick. The motion passes by Roll Call vote.

Sarah Cheung, aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye
Maggie Dong, aye
Josephine Cureton, aye
Calvin Quick, aye



Khatab Alameri, aye

Crystal Chan, aye

JoJo Ty, aye

Ariana Arana, aye

Rome Jones, aye

Amara Santos, aye

Arianna Nassiri, aye

Nora Hylton, aye

Stephen “Rocky” Versace, aye

Arsema Asfaw, aye

Alexander Hirji, aye

Sarah Ginsburg, aye

Commissioner Cureton shares thanks for the hard work that Civic Engagement has done on the legislation and campaign. And is very proud of the press conference, too.

6. Presentations (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. [Inform + Decision] Students for Education Equity Call to Action: Advocating for Sufficient Education Funding During Unprecedented Times of COVID-19
Presenter: Alvin Lee, Executive Director & Benjamin Salop, Director of Governmental Affairs & Operations, GENup Staff
(Document C)

Benjamin Salop, chair of Oakland Youth Commission, director of Governmental Affairs & Operations.

GENup is leading the Students for Education Equity Coalition (SFEE), which includes youth-led organizations and education stakeholders from across California, from prominent student board members to student-led educational advocacy organizations. The Students for Education Equity Coalition is dedicated to advocating for sufficient education funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. California is rapidly losing money, causing the education system to become severely underfunded. Roughly 300,000 jobs will be lost in the education sector alone, and school districts may have to end school as early as March or April next year because they cannot afford to remain open. Currently, schools that provide resources such as technological support will be relied upon by up to twice as many students, costing significantly more money, and making it all the more essential to fund these programs in order to protect a vulnerable and weakening education system.

Currently asking for call to actions:

- petitions to the CA Legislature, Congress
- social media publicity
- join the coalition
- endorse our letters to Governor & Congress

Questions:



- Commissioner Santos:
 - Thank you for presenting. Question about equity. Where is the work being done re: local student perspective?
 - Answer: Their main goal is equity and recruiting a diverse body that represents the CA student population, and allows them to decide what the needs are. Main need is to find as much support as possible and would appreciate any ideas as possible.
- Commissioner Dong:
 - Thanks. From our agenda packet one of the recommendations is to create a youth body that will oversee how the money will be spent. How would this body be recruited to represent the population of CA?
 - Answer: That's a good question. Use CA Department of Ed files and statewide data that has combined 7 million students and demographics that are in CA schools. Work in partnership to draw on these on how the break down on the commission would be established, then choose applicants who are most diverse.
- Commissioner Cheung
 - an ask is the YC to be a member of the coalition. What does this mean re: meetings and commitment?
 - Answer: Wide range of opportunities, one is symbolic as a sign on to be a member. Would appreciate someone join the meeting and get more involved. Commissioner Cureton is already a member and they are creating staff for this. Don't need more than one YC'er to serve on the steering committee. Can contact Ben to get more involved.
- Commissioner Cureton:
 - Available and willing to be primary liaison - unless other folks are interested

No further questions.

Discussion:

Commissioner Santos-concerned how, as YC, we wouldn't be able to speak directly to the public high school experience. Worried about this. Is there something we can do to get another appointment for them? Many public high school students are leaders, how can we get them engaged?

Commissioner Quick-in support of signing on to the letters and echoes Commissioner Santos' concerns. Would want to be sure we know what the intentions are to sign on. Fully support the letters but not so sure on the coalition.

Commissioner Cureton-echoes the above. Majority of YC is from private school. Clarify-becoming a member means it would be part of many orgs representing. Blue Ribbon coalition would be appointed as part of a different body.

Commissioner Cheung-hears a support for the letters but not members of the coalition.

Commissioner Quick-willing to sign on to coalition so long as we are aware we should leverage to direct attention to public school students, especially from marginalized communities.



Commissioner Cheung - agree with Quick's recommendation

Commissioner Cureton-if we join the coalition we could use our connections with our CBOs to get those voices in the body and the coalition.

Benjamin - coalition itself is a symbolic gesture and want to include as many orgs as possible. Governor would develop the Blue Ribbon Coalition and is separate.

Commissioner Santos-wary of lack of equity focus. Uncomfortable to hear that it's not at the forefront.

Commissioner Cheung - hopefully if YC is a member, we can advocate for more equity focused and include community partners

Commissioner Asfaw - adding on to Commissioner Santos' statement. A simple acknowledgment in the letter of the different impacts on different communities is helpful and would reassure the reader you won't forget about it.

Commissioner Cureton - Benjamin said there is a mention of marginalized communities as a focus. In the most recent draft there is a paragraph stating that specific marginalized communities have been disproportionately impacted and specifically requested extra funds and resources for them and to be included in the measure.

Commissioner Santos - clarification on using our connections to support.

Commissioner Cheung- if we have a YC representative for membership, through our membership we could advocate for an equity focus.

Commissioner Quick- pg. 2 paragraph stated out loud.

Ben-yes, that is part of it and below that paragraph is specific budget requests on ERATE are all specific plans that promote equitable education. He has a different letter than YC was given.

Commissioner Quick-would be helpful to have more descriptive paragraphs on equity.

No public comment.

Commissioner Cureton, seconded by Commissioner Alameri, motioned to sign onto the letter and join the coalition but to add an equity focus to the letter and coalition. The motion passes with 16 Ayes and 1 Nay through a roll call vote.

Sarah Cheung, aye
Valentina Alioto-Pier, aye
Maggie Dong, aye
Josephine Cureton, aye
Calvin Quick, aye
Khatab Alameri, aye



Crystal Chan, aye
JoJo Ty, aye

Ariana Arana, aye
Rome Jones, aye
Amara Santos, nay
Arianna Nassiri, aye
Nora Hylton, aye
Stephen "Rocky" Versace, aye
Arsema Asfaw, aye
Alexander Hirji, aye
Sarah Ginsburg, aye

Commissioner Santos shared why she voted no - with no equitable focus on the forefront, even well-intentioned cannot motion to support.

Clerk reminder: After the vote is taken on an item, discussion is closed unless we rescind the vote and allow additional discussion.

Benjamin Salop: Thank you SFYC for your support. I would love to hear about your recommendations for improving the SFEE letter. If you'd like to reach out to me and offer any suggestions, you can contact me.

7. Youth Commission Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. [First Reading] Resolution No. 1920-AL-11 [Youth Services and Programs – City Response to COVID-19 Pandemic]
Presenter: Commissioner Quick
(Document D)

Commissioner Quick-general context on the importance of this resolution and read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Quick-city's data collection on race and ethnicity has been sparse and not scientifically usable that part has been left out. But if the YC feels like we should incorporate it in some way then he is happy to include it.

-Staff has also reached out to Chinese Progressive Association on youth specific data and has been told we would have information by the next meeting and could have this passed at the next meeting.

Questions:

Commissioner Jones-should we address protests/riots in this resolution?

Commissioner Quick-leave that out of this resolution, but should have conversation about this in general.



Commissioner Hirji-there is room for including more recent events and thinks this would be a separate resolution. Have legislation dedicated to the protests and one dedicated to COVID-19 and the city's response to that.

Commissioner Alameri-agrees with Commissioner Hirji. Would also personally help with this by writing something.

Commissioner Cureton-TJ is having a discussion and that they might write a resolution and if anyone else wants to contribute let TJ know. Covering the Impact on curfew and ending MOU with SFPD for SROs.

Commissioner Jones-wants to make sure he just brought it up. Does think there are direct correlations. As a black person there are things that are being talked about at a larger scale and it feels awkward, almost as if people are stuck in their house and must deal with it.

Commissioner Hirji-question for Commissioner Quick. Has there been any updates on the financial outlook for the city. What is the city considering to cut? More detailed revision that was proposed. There will be a deficit.

Staff said yes, there will be major budget cuts of 10-15% for city departments and looking at major budget cuts for the next two years.

- B. [Inform] Updated Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priority Timeline for FY 20-21, 21-22
Presenters: Staff
(Document E)

Budget Timeline presentation from Director Kiely Hosmon:

- Budget is being redirected to COVID Relief, except the deficit budget will be signed in October.
- Our timeline - first reading - is allowing our intentions of writing in our bpp.
 - june 1st - first reading
 - june 15th second reading and possible approval

Commissioner Quick: because BOS will not be having august recess, are we expected to have normal yc stuff in august too?

Commissioner Nassiri: what does the term look like for those who are going off to college?

Staff: We don't know about that. It might mean we still do virtual and we are in flux on that.

- C. [First reading] Budget and Policy Priorities for FY 20-21, 21-22
Presenters: All committee chairs



Commissioner Nassiri-Vote16 campaign for a charter amendment to expand voting rights to 16 & 17 year olds. Is going through the process to be put on the ballot, we are recycling the document to update the majority of it.

Commissioner Dong-increase emergency shelter, transportation equity, and rolling over similar BPPs from last year

Commissioner Hylton-rolling over BPPs as well, still about expanding alternatives to incarceration, closure of 850 Bryant and closure of juvenile hall, believes it will also be taking in current issues into account regarding Black Lives Matter

D. [Inform] YC Application & Reappointment Process
Presenters: Staff

-Getting a higher turn out right now. So far we have 68 applications with a majority still being Lowell and private schools. We do have some college students.

Timeframe:

- Staff has informed the BOS and MO that those who want to return should return.
- Staff will review applications and rating them for this week and next
- non returning commissioners are invited to be a part of virtual interviews
- Preliminary training to discuss implicit bias as well as what qualified applicants will hold. Itzel will send out a doodle poll for training
- June 12th-June 22nd interview sessions
- After interviews we will look over our top 3 recommendations which we will send to the BOS and the MO (stronger conversation regarding new applicants and prepping them of what interviews will look like with elected officials and/or their staff...basically interview practice and support)
- after that we wait to see who they will appoint, and then we give our recommendations to the Mayor
- most likely virtual day training (online modules/webinars) to cover fall orientation. Online press conference for swearing in ceremony is in the works
- if we can reconvene in person we do have the North Hall Court reserved for us

Questions: Commissioner Dong-will terms be ending around the same time?

Answer: Your term does go until the end of August or when we wrap up BPPs and finish your chartered duties. Trying to float along and see how it goes.

Commissioner Asfaw-more clarification needed on the interview panel. What would you have to do if you want to help out with that?

Answer: Because you are reapplying to be a commissioner you might be on the waitlist since you could be interviewing your competitor so as of now it's those who are not returning to the YC.



Commissioner Hylton, Commissioner Alameri, Commissioner Cureton, Commissioner Nassiri are interested in helping with interviews.

8. Committee Reports (Discussion Only)

a. Executive Committee

a. LAO

i. Numerous pieces of legislation:

1. March 31st-ordinances that established COVID-19 emergency family relief fund to fill the soft gap from federal relief that didn't cover everyone. Specifically focused on undocumented members and black and brown communities left out of federal stimulus bill. Both passed
2. May 5th-hearing on suicide and domestic violence
3. May 12th-resolution to support early care educators and a resolution urging congress for money to give relief to childcare. Motion to authorize Police Commission to meet
4. May 19th-items relating to policing and law enforcement oversight. Charter amendment on police staffing that would be on November's ballot. Authorizing of commissions to meet.

b. Comms

- i. Featuring pets on instagram. Thanks to Commissioners who have sent in their pet pictures for some lightness.
- ii. Outreach for town halls and connection for Supervisors to connect with their communities. Low capacity for fully engaged outreach but did engage with CHALK.
- iii. If you have ideas on how YCers are getting through the day for social media or have other ideas to share please do
- iv. This Wednesday at 4:30 comms has a meeting with the Sac Commission and they want to learn how their digital media works. Request from SoCal on how they developed
 1. sac - asfaw, ginsburg
 2. social - quick, cureton, nassiri, cheung, asfaw, ginsburg, alameri

c. General Committee Updates

- i. working on COVID-19 preface for BPP. Hopefully have that done within the next couple of weeks. Still in the research and formatting phase.
- ii. Having good conversations about YC culture and microaggressions. Thanks to Commissioner Asfaw and Jones for joining these conversations. Bringing good changes from these conversations and Commissioners Santos and Asfaw proposing new bylaw amendments.

b. Civic Engagement

- a. Meeting weekly and gathering endorsements for Vote16, press release, interviews, presentations and are preparing to form as a separate organization.
- b. Confirmed a BLING grant and gave us \$10,000 which is very exciting

c. Housing and Land Use



- a. YFYI grant discussion-Grand Challenge cohort transportation and in person workshops but now uncertain on what will happen
- d. Transformative Justice
 - a. Wrote a letter of support for the Police Commission to meet.
 - b. Online campaign to close 850 Bryant
 - c. Bi weekly meetings and check ins
 - d. Response to Black Live Matters events
- e. OCOF
 - a. nothing to report as they haven't met

9. Staff Report (Discussion Only)

- staff is doing the best we can and are in a state of constant fluctuation and if we haven't given you information it's not because we're withholding it, it's because we don't have it
- all meetings will be on Teams
- all Commissions and policy bodies can now meet
- anticipate your terms will go through August and a recess is debatable
- expect to be online for the rest of the term and staff is trying to be creative for orientation, trainings, and swearing in ceremony
- acknowledge the heaviness of what is happening around protests/riots/upheaval. Staff are here to hold space if anyone wants to connect
- a lot of calls to action and there is a shared responsibility to take and there is a role for everyone. Protesting on the streets is not for everyone and taking to the streets is not required as a way to show up for black liberation
- there are virtual community grieving and healing

10. Announcements (This Includes Community Events)

Commissioner Cheung - Covid Connect in Tech @TeenTechSF Sat June 6th

Staff Estrada - youth led peaceful protest June 3rd Mission High at 4pm

Commissioner Jones - youth art showcase is live! Submit art online by June 8th. Flyer with google form link will be provided. Chance to win a \$150 gift card.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.