

1 [Youth Commission Priorities for Improving Youth-Police Relations Under a New Police Chief]

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

4 The Youth Commission has worked extensively to improve youth-police relations throughout its twenty
5 year history. The current hiring a new Police Chief is a chance to consider how to meaningfully invest
6 in improving relationships between the police department and San Francisco's young people. We
7 would like to submit our recommendations and priorities for improving youth-police relations for
8 consideration during the selection of a new Chief of Police.

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10 Our priorities are as follows:

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12 The Youth Commission would like to continue to recommend that the incoming police chief commit to
13 training officers on effectively interacting with youth. This effort has been a long time in the making,
14 and we believe now is a critical time to make this change. We want to ensure this training is
15 implemented for all police officers, with a priority for sergeants and patrol officers, and that it address
16 topics and policing tactics unique to juveniles. This training should offer practical communication skills
17 and best practices for working with youth that are grounded in developmental psychology; The training
18 should include de-escalation skills and strategies for asserting authority effectively with youth;
19 incorporate scenarios of real life police-youth interactions that include youth in those training
20 components; and offer officers an opportunity to practice and apply their new skills.

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22 Second, we would like to see continued work to promote positive collaboration between the school
23 district and the police department by ensuring a full implementation of the SFUSD-SFPD MOU,
24 ongoing monitoring of on-campus arrests, and comprehensive training of school resource officers. We
25 look forward to working with SFPD and SFUSD to ensure successful implementation of the

1 agreement, to support students in their educational goals, and to avoid the unnecessary criminalization
2 of student behavior. The Youth Commission recommends a clear appointment process for student
3 seats on an implementation and oversight committee, and the calendaring of regular, afterschool
4 meetings of the committee during the school year.

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6 Third, we recommend that the incoming police chief evaluate outcomes regarding the use of protocols
7 for arresting parents codified in Department General Order 7.04; and continue to train new officers on
8 the protocols, as the department did with its current officers at the time of the order's passage in 2014.

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10 Finally, the Youth Commission would like to emphasize the importance of open communication
11 between youth, youth advocates, and the police department. It is our hope that the Youth Commission
12 can serve as a bridge between young people and the police department by organizing regular youth
13 roundtables with the new Chief, or by other means. We believe that together, we have the ability to
14 make San Francisco a more just place for all its residents.

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20 Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission
21 Adopted on November 7, 2016
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