

1 [Resolution in support of Youth Justice Reform]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to reduce the imprisonment of**
 3 **transitional age youth, implement alternatives to incarceration for Transitional Aged Youth,**
 4 **reject any funding for major renovation, reopening, or construction of jail facilities, and instead**
 5 **invest in programming supporting at-risk Transitional Aged Youth and Positive Youth**
 6 **Development.**

7 WHEREAS, the Youth Commission has previously passed a motion on April 3rd, 2017 urging
 8 the Board and Mayor to hold a hearing on alternatives to incarceration⁽⁸⁾; and

9 WHEREAS, out-of-detention alternatives and Restorative Justice efforts have reduced the
 10 average daily incarcerated population amongst juveniles by over 37% from 2011 to 2015⁽⁷⁾; and

11 WHEREAS, during the same time period juvenile bookings were also reduced by over 38%
 12 without an uptick in crime rates from 2011 to 2015⁽⁷⁾; and

13 WHEREAS, 22% of San Francisco's adult system cases are Transitional Aged Youth
 14 ("TAY")⁽⁶⁾; and

15 WHEREAS, TAY are only 8% of San Francisco's population⁽⁶⁾; and

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 19 ¹ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.

20 ² "Department for Children and Families." *Governor Signs Law Creating More Rational Juvenile Justice Policies in Vermont | Department for Children and Families*, 1 June 2016, dcf.vermont.gov/dcf-blog/governor-signs-law-creating-more-rational-juvenile-justice-policies-vermont

21 ³ Justice, Vera Institute of. "Incarceration Trends." *Vera Institute of Justice*, trends.vera.org/rates/San-Francisco-County-CA?incarcerationSource=black&incarceration=disparity.

22 ⁴ "City Performance Scorecards." *City and County of San Francisco*, sfgov.org/scorecards/county-jail-population.

23 ⁵ S.P. Sullivan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com. "Here's how much N.J. jail population fell since bail reform." *NJ.com*, NJ.com, 23 Aug. 2017, www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/07/njs_bail_population_dropped_20_percent_in_6_months.html.

24 ⁶ "San Francisco Youth Commission Justice & Employment Committee Draft - Minutes 5:00-7:00 PM Monday November 27, 2017 ." Youth Commission, 27 Nov. 2017.

25 ⁷ "Juvenile Probation Department." *City and County of San Francisco*, http://sfgov.org/juvprobation/sites/default/files/2015AnnualReport_Statistics.pdf

⁸ "San Francisco Youth Commission"

<http://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/Four%20YC%20Actions%20from%20April%203%2C%202017.pdf>

⁹ "Raising the Age: Shifting to a Safer and More Effective Juvenile Justice System." Justice Policy Institute.

¹⁰ Henderson-Frakes, Jennifer, et al. "An Evaluation of San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC) Findings on Planning and Early Implementation." SPR Social Policy Research Associates, May 2017.

1 WHEREAS, prison environments are no place for young growing minds to develop and can
 2 negatively impact their mental growth. Research has demonstrated that young people's brains are still
 3 developing until the age of 25 which leaves them vulnerable to develop mental health related
 4 illnesses⁽¹⁾; and

5 WHEREAS, young adults ages 18-25 represent 25% of the county jail population, had the
 6 highest number of "bed days" of any age group in SF county jails, and had the most prolonged jail
 7 stays of any age group⁽⁶⁾; and

8 WHEREAS, in June of 2016 State of Vermont enacted a law which will raise the age of criminal
 9 responsibility to 21⁽²⁾; and

10 WHEREAS, in February of 2017 the State of Connecticut has also introduced similar
 11 legislation⁽¹⁾; and

12 WHEREAS, the prison industrial complex, including jailing and policing in San Francisco,
 13 disproportionately affects low-income communities of color; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco has prided itself on its historic values of diversity and equity, and
 15 yet, in 2015, African Americans represented over 55% of the incarcerated population while only 5.3%
 16 of the overall population⁽³⁾; and

17
 18 ¹ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22
 19 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.

² "Department for Children and Families." *Governor Signs Law Creating More Rational Juvenile Justice Policies in Vermont | Department for Children
 20 and Families*, 1 June 2016, dcf.vermont.gov/dcf-blog/governor-signs-law-creating-more-rational-juvenile-justice-policies-vermont

³ Justice, Vera Institute of. "Incarceration Trends." *Vera Institute of Justice*, [trends.vera.org/rates/San-Francisco-County-
 21 CA?incarcerationSource=black&incarceration=disparity](http://trends.vera.org/rates/San-Francisco-County-CA?incarcerationSource=black&incarceration=disparity).

⁴ "City Performance Scorecards." *City and County of San Francisco*, sfgov.org/scorecards/county-jail-population.

⁵ S.P. Sullivan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com. "Here's how much N.J. jail population fell since bail reform." *NJ.com*, NJ.com, 23 Aug. 2017,
 22 www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/07/njs_bail_population_dropped_20_percent_in_6_months.html.

⁶ "San Francisco Youth Commission Justice & Employment Committee Draft - Minutes 5:00-7:00 PM Monday November 27, 2017 ." Youth Commission,
 23 27 Nov. 2017.

⁷ "Juvenile Probation Department." *City and County of San Francisco*, http://sfgov.org/juvprobation/sites/default/files/2015AnnualReport_Statistics.pdf

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¹⁰ Henderson-Frakes, Jennifer, et al. "An Evaluation of San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC) Findings on Planning and Early Implementation." SPR
 25 Social Policy Research Associates , May 2017.

1 WHEREAS, 85% of people incarcerated in San Francisco county jails are awaiting trial and
2 have not been convicted⁽⁶⁾; and

3 WHEREAS, the cash bail system also disproportionately impacts low-income communities of
4 color; and

5 WHEREAS, in January of 2017 the State of New Jersey recently eliminated its cash bail
6 system to address these disparities, resulting in a 20% decrease in its incarcerated population⁽⁵⁾; and

7 WHEREAS, previous Restorative Justice and collaborative court models policy enacted to
8 support juveniles and TAY has demonstrated reduced costs and recidivism rates⁽⁶⁾; and

9 WHEREAS, the Young Adult Court, which began in 2015, has closed its doors to new cases
10 three times in the last year due to capacity, and is expected to be immediately full again after
11 expanding its services to a second court day in 2018⁽⁶⁾; and

12 WHEREAS, the success with the decarceration of younger teenagers, the pretrial jail
13 population, and disproportionate representation of TAY should alert us to an opportunity to find
14 alternatives to incarceration for this population; and

15 WHEREAS, such opportunities for possible out-of-detention alternatives could include
16 diversion or collaborative court options; changes to bail and pretrial detention policies for youth;
17 reduction of felony charges for phone thefts; increasing TAY specific behavioral health services; and

18 ¹ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22
19 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.

20 ² "Department for Children and Families." *Governor Signs Law Creating More Rational Juvenile Justice Policies in Vermont | Department for Children
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24 www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/07/njs_bail_population_dropped_20_percent_in_6_months.html.

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¹⁰ Henderson-Frakes, Jennifer, et al. "An Evaluation of San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC) Findings on Planning and Early Implementation." SPR
Social Policy Research Associates , May 2017.

1 changes to policy regarding classifications of TAY held in county jails in order to reduce the need for
 2 increased bed capacity within our county jail system; and

3 WHEREAS, the Youth Commission unequivocally supports San Francisco Youth who are
 4 involved in the justice system; and

5 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has previously unanimously rejected funding capital
 6 expenditures for new jail construction; and

7 WHEREAS, this legislation has the support, and cosponsorship of the Center on Juvenile and
 8 Criminal Justice and Project WHAT!; and now therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission stands in solidarity with communities of color to
 10 address the impacts of disproportionate targeting by the criminal justice system; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to take
 12 immediate steps to reduce our incarcerated Transitional Aged Youth population by 50% in the next 5
 13 years by implementing robust policy changes such as, but not limited to, expanding the TAY
 14 Collaborative Court, increasing funding for Transitional Aged Youth behavioral health services,
 15 advocating that the District Attorney restructure how it charges young adults for nonviolent felonies,
 16 specifically related to “snatch and grab” theft, and encouraging the Judiciary to enact policies
 17 reforming the bail system to better serve low income communities; and be it further

18 ¹ Wiltz, Teresa. “Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it.” *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22
 19 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.

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 Social Policy Research Associates , May 2017.

1 RESOLVED, that in light of this reduction in jail population, the Youth Commission urges the
 2 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to reject any financing, debts, or certificates of participation to reopen,
 3 construct, or renovate existing jails; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to instead
 5 invest any aforementioned capital expenditures on programming to support at-risk, and justice
 6 involved, Transitional Aged Youth; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to
 8 prioritize the development of low-income housing, create more small, community-based residential
 9 behavioral health treatment centers, and create a walk-on calendar for persons with bench warrants to
 10 reduce bookings for these warrants, which are recommendations created by the Work Group to Re-
 11 Envision the Jail Replacement Project dedicated to supporting the Mayor and Board of Supervisors in
 12 developing a plan for the closure of County Jail 3 and County Jail 4⁽¹⁰⁾; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to request a Budget &
 14 Legislative Analyst report on the financial and decarceration impacts of these strategies, and
 15 be it finally

16 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to stand in
 17 solidarity with the Youth Commission, Project WHAT!, No New Jail SF Coalition, the Center on

18 ¹ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22
 19 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.

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 Social Policy Research Associates, May 2017.

Juvenile Criminal Justice, and the youth of San Francisco, in rejecting further expenditures on our jail system, and taking immediate action to reduce the incarcerated Transitional Aged Youth population in the jail system.



Chiara Lind, Chair, 2017-18 Youth Commission
Adopted on February 5, 2018

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¹ Wiltz, Teresa. "Children still funneled through adult prisons, but states are moving against it." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 22 June 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/17/how-raise-age-laws-might-reduce-recidivism/400065001/.
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<http://sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/Four%20YC%20Actions%20from%20April%203%2C%202017.pdf>
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¹⁰ Henderson-Frakes, Jennifer, et al. "An Evaluation of San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC) Findings on Planning and Early Implementation." SPR Social Policy Research Associates , May 2017.



YOUTH SERVICES

Larkin Street Youth Services
134 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel (415) 673.0911
Fax (415) 749.3838
www.larkinstreetyouth.org

Board of Directors
Terry Kramer, Chair
Susan K. Alexander, Vice-Chair
Jeremy Avenier, Secretary
Art Fatum, Treasurer
Adam Moise, At-Large
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Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director

March 5, 2018
San Francisco Youth Commission
Justice and Employment Committee
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Fiona Barnett
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Jennifer Brahm
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Patrick Kiss
Natalie Hatvany Kitchen
Willis Newton
Eric Roos
Philip Schlein
Aaron C. Schwartz
Sally Shapiro
John Viola
Charles J. Wibbelsman, M.D.

Dear SF Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Larkin Street Youth Services to express our support of Resolution No. 1718-AL-06 [Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform], written by the SF Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee, that was adopted by the SF Youth Commission on February 5th, 2018. We agree that San Francisco must reduce the imprisonment of transitional age youth by implementing alternatives to incarceration and redirecting spending towards programming supporting this vulnerable population.

Larkin Street is at the front lines of ending youth homelessness in San Francisco. Over the past 34 years Larkin Street has developed a comprehensive approach to youth homelessness that combines critical engagement services to help youth take their first steps off the street, with longer term housing and wraparound support services to help them build a permanent pathway out of poverty. More than 2,500 youth ages 12 – 24 access our lifesaving and life changing services each year.

Recent research has made clear the connections between the incarceration of transitional age youth and homelessness. Incarceration can increase a young person’s likelihood of becoming homeless, and in turn, many laws disproportionately affect young people experiencing homelessness, making them more likely to become incarcerated. Transitional age youth comprise only 8% of San Francisco’s population yet they make up 22% of the city and county’s adult justice system cases.

The Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform offers a path forward to begin to meet the needs of our most vulnerable and underserved young community members. We applaud the work of the Commission and their leadership on behalf of all of San Francisco’s transitional aged youth.

Sincerely,

Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director
Larkin Street Youth Services
134 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

YOUNG WOMEN'S FREEDOM CENTER

832 Folsom, 7th Floor San Francisco, CA 94608 (415) 261-1107 www.youngwomenfree.org

San Francisco Youth Commission
Justice and Employment Committee
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear SF Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee:

The Young Women's Freedom Center would like to extend our support of Resolution No. 1718-AL-06 [Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform], written by the SF Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee, that was adopted by the SF Youth Commission on February 5th, 2018.

We agree that SF should reduce the imprisonment of transitional age youth, implement alternatives to incarceration for Transitional Aged Youth, reject any funding for major renovation, reopening, or construction of jail facilities, and instead invest in programming supporting at-risk Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) and positive youth development.

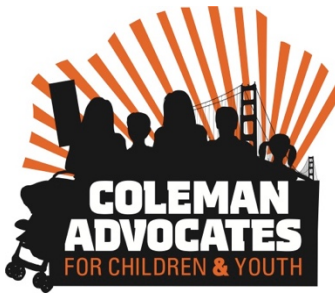
The Young Women's Freedom Center (formerly the Center for Young Women's Development) is a leadership and advocacy organization led by cis and trans women and girls of color who have grown up in poverty, experienced incarceration, worked in the underground street economy, and who have been criminalized by social services such as foster care, welfare, public education, and the mental health system. We know that young adults ages 18-25, represent 25% of the county jail population, and have the highest number of "bed days" of any age group in SF county jails. TAY represents 22% of San Francisco's adult system cases but only represent 8% of San Francisco's population. We know that these disparities will only be exacerbated should funding be prioritized for construction or renovation of SF's jail facilities.

For the last 25 years, we have worked with system involved young women ages 16-25, and we know that detention and incarceration has rehabilitated very few youth. However, community based and culturally relevant programming, meaningful employment and opportunities to share their experiences and voice have. Our city is rich with resources, however, there has been no initiative to support and keep our most vulnerable families and youth in our city. We believe that if you are seeking to put resources towards any initiative, it should be one that provides housing for unaccompanied minors and TAY, creates viable jobs for TAY youth, surrounds young people with a supportive network of well funded community based organizations and educational opportunities and seeks innovative alternatives to detention.

We support rejecting further expenditures on our jail system, and taking immediate action to reduce the incarcerated Transitional Aged Youth population in the jail system.

Sincerely,

Krea Gomez
Organizing & Advocacy Director



459 Vienna Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 | (415) 239-0161 | www.colemanadvocates.org

March 13, 2018

San Francisco Youth Commission
Justice and Employment Committee
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support for Resolution No. 1718-AL-06 [Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform]

Dear San Francisco Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee:

Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth (Coleman Advocates) writes in support of Resolution No. 1718-AL-06 [Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform], written by the San Francisco Youth Commission Justice and Employment Committee and adopted by the San Francisco Youth Commission on February 5th, 2018.

Coleman Advocates builds the leadership and power of low-income and working class youth and families of color in San Francisco to advance racial and economic justice in our schools and our city. Through grassroots organizing, budget and policy advocacy, and voter engagement, we are building a city of hope, justice, and opportunity for all children and families in San Francisco. Our primary focus is fighting to advance rights, safety, and full inclusion of low-income people of color.

We whole-heartedly agree that San Francisco should reduce the imprisonment of Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and implement alternatives to incarceration for TAY. We further support the rejection of any funding for major renovation, reopening, or construction of jail facilities. Rather than investing in further incarceration of TAY, we urge the investment in preventative strategies like programming that supports at-risk TAY and positive youth development.

Prison environments are no place for young growing minds to develop, and can negatively impact their mental growth. The prison industrial complex, including

jailing and policing in San Francisco, disproportionately affects low-income communities of color. San Francisco has prided itself on its historic values of diversity and equity, yet, in 2015, African Americans represented over 55% of the incarcerated population while only 5.3% of the overall population.

Further, research has demonstrated that young people's brains are still developing until the age of 25 which leaves them vulnerable to develop mental health related illnesses. TAY are disproportionately represented in the adult system - 22% of San Francisco's adult system cases are TAY but TAY only comprise 8% of San Francisco's population.

Out-of-detention alternatives and Restorative Justice efforts have reduced the average daily incarcerated population amongst juveniles by over 37% from 2011 to 2015; during the same time period, juvenile bookings were also reduced by over 38% without an uptick in crime rates from 2011 to 2015. Moreover, Restorative Justice and collaborative court models enacted to support juveniles and TAY have demonstrated reduced costs and recidivism rates.

For the above reasons, we support the rejection of further expenditures on our jail system, as well as immediate action to reduce the incarcerated TAY population in the jail system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AK', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anabel Kingwood, Policy Director
Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth