

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN JOSE REVISING THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS, SUPERSEDING
RESOLUTION NO. 79978**

WHEREAS, the San José Youth Commission (“Youth Commission”) was formed to foster greater involvement of youth in municipal government, specifically to study problems, activities, and concerns of youth relating to municipal policies, programs, or projects of the City of San José (“City”); and

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 75374, the original Bill of Rights for Children and Youth (Bill of Rights), which was based upon an older version of the County of Santa Clara Bill of Rights that had been created without the participation and voice of children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the City Council adopted updates to the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth for the City of San José as recommended by the San José Youth Commission (Resolution No. 79978) and directed the City Auditor’s Office to conduct an audit across City departments to determine adherence and implementation of the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022, the City Auditor’s Office presented its finding and recommendations in “Bill of Rights for Children and Youth: Incorporating the Bill of Rights into Planning Can Enhance Service” Audit Report; and

WHEREAS, through a revisioning process in 2022 for the Bill of Rights, the Youth Commission revised the Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults in Santa Clara County as follows:

All children and young adults have the right to:

- Healthcare
- Mental health
- Love and emotional connections
- Support and guidance
- Life skills
- Education
- Job opportunities
- Personal development
- External support for family
- Modern needs
- Basic needs
- Housing
- Green spaces
- Safety
- Voice
- Choice

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults will replace the City 's Bill of Rights for Children and Youth that was adopted by City Council by Resolution No. 79978;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

1. The revised Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of San José, attached hereto as EXHIBIT A, is hereby adopted as aspirational guidelines to demonstrate the importance of youth to the City of San José, and to help San José youth receive the resources that they need to succeed; and
2. Resolution No. 79978 is hereby superseded.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

MATT MAHAN
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

BILL OF RIGHTS

for Children & Young Adults for Santa Clara County



Every young person must get what they need when they need it, no matter their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, mental or physical ability, nationality, immigration status, criminal history, first language, skin color, education status, or wealth. We value the diversity of our children and young adults in Santa Clara County and believe we must treat each of them with respect and dignity.

All children and young adults have the right to:

- ✓ **Healthcare:** Affordable, timely, and quality mental and physical healthcare that they can access at any time.
- ✓ **Mental health:** Mental and emotional health and well-being and support systems in and outside of the home that promotes emotional and social safety.
- ✓ **Love and emotional connections:** Meaningful connections with consistent, caring adults and peers who love and appreciate the young person for who they are and want to see them grow.
- ✓ **Support and Guidance:** Receive support and guidance from role models who are dedicated to helping them achieve their dreams and goals.
- ✓ **Life Skills:** Training to develop life skills and knowledge as well as opportunities to apply them for their growth.
- ✓ **Education:** A relevant and engaging education that exposes them to other cultures and promotes lifelong learning.
- ✓ **Job Opportunities:** Job opportunities that provide safe and reasonable working conditions, and a living wage, and allow them to grow their careers.
- ✓ **Personal Development:** Time, space, and resources to pursue any interest or opt for rest.
- ✓ **External support for family:** Support that will allow their families to be taken care of so they can pursue their dreams.
- ✓ **Modern needs:** Reliable transportation and wifi, computers that meet their needs, and phones when applicable.
- ✓ **Basic needs:** Enough quality food and water, showers, clean clothes, and hygiene products to keep their bodies healthy.
- ✓ **Housing:** Affordable, stable, safe, and comfortable housing that meets their needs as individuals.
- ✓ **Green spaces:** Easily accessible and clean green spaces that will be preserved for future generations.
- ✓ **Safety:** Feel and be safe in all environments they are in, such as their schools, homes, neighborhoods, and online.
- ✓ **Voice:** Be treated as equal partners in identifying problems, developing solutions, and making the decisions that they are impacted by.
- ✓ **Choice:** Make important decisions for their lives and set boundaries that are respected.

The rights above have not been fulfilled for all youth. Many are limited by the inflexible and overly restrained structure of the environments designed for them. Change to these environments will not happen without mass commitment and action. By combining our personal power and expertise through continuous collaboration, we have the ability to create lasting change for Santa Clara County youth.

For more information: www.kidsincommon.org
