



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
District 8

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 6, 2021

Approved

Date

Sylvia Arenas

05/06/2021

SUBJECT: BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AUDIT

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Direct the City Auditor to add to their upcoming 2021/2022 workplan an audit of the City of San José's adherence to and implementation of the San José Bill of Rights for Children and Youth.
- 2) Bring this report to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee (and cross-list to Council) and add an annual report on its implementation to the NSE workplan.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José first adopted the San José Bill of Rights for Children and Youth (Bill of Rights) in 2010. Over a decade later, the City Council adopted and implemented the updated Bill of Rights from the Youth Commission along with the additions from my memo to add minor revisions and article expansions on April 27, 2021¹. I applaud and thank our Youth Commission for their leadership to update the Bill of Rights and clearly communicate the current needs of our children and youth in San José.

As our City prepares to transition from COVID-19 response to recovery, we must also reevaluate how we can better meet the needs outlined by our youth in the Bill of Rights. In the eleven years that the City has adopted the Bill of Rights, we have not performed any audits or developed metrics to measure how the City adheres to and implements the Bill of Rights. This audit is also encouraged to incorporate feedback from Kids in Common who produces the annual Data Book, which serves as a report card on the well-being of our children in Santa Clara County².

¹ <https://sanjose.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4912501&GUID=E887043F-46F4-4F54-ACB4-4EF89E30C1F3&Options=&Search>

² <https://testkidsincommon.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/childrens-data-book-2021-v2.pdf>