

## Fw: 5/12 Rules & Open Government Committee Item G. 3 Bill of Rights for Children and Youth Audit Letter of Support

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 5/12/2021 8:58 AM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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**From:** Bunnett, Dana <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:31 PM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** 5/12 Rules & Open Government Committee Item G. 3 Bill of Rights for Children and Youth Audit Letter of Support

[External Email]

Dear Rules & Open Government Committee;

I am writing in support of Item G.3: Bill of Rights for Children and Youth Audit. Kids in Common has been a long-time supporter of municipalities adopting a Bill of Rights for Children & Youth. In 2010, we supported the SJ Youth Commission's adoption of the Bill of Rights and also promoted it to the County and its municipalities. What is very impressive about the San Jose Bill of Rights, is that it is created by youth who live in the city. Through the Bill of Rights, the youth share what they believe is most important for their well-being and success.

The Bill of Rights keeps the needs of young people front and center, and helps ensure that children and youth are considered in budget and policy decisions. These rights help our community make children and youth a priority even during times of political change and financial upheaval.

The work the Youth Commission has done to create a Bill of Rights is extraordinary. One way to give the Bill of Rights power and meaning, is to have an audit process as proposed by Councilmember Arenas. Such an audit can help the city see where the rights are fulfilled and where there is need for action or investment to ensure their fulfillment. And having metrics to understand how children in San Jose are faring is critically important. As the saying goes, "what is not assessed is not addressed."

Kids in Common is ready and willing to support this audit and metric-setting process. SJ will be the first city in Santa Clara County to establish a system to evaluate the implementation of the Bill of Rights. I believe this work will provide a model for other cities in Santa Clara County and perhaps the nation.

Congratulations on the first step of approving the Youth Commission's Bill of Rights. I hope you take this work to the next level by supporting an audit and metric setting process.

In Community Spirit,

**Dana Bunnett**

Director of Kids in Common



*Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, and successful in life.*

She, Her, and Hers



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## Fw: Agenda Item G.3 - Youth Bill of Rights in Rules Committee

Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 5/10/2021 11:13 PM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

It's for G.3 Letters from the Public. Thanks,

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**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: Agenda Item G.3 - Youth Bill of Rights in Rules Committee

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**From:** Youth Commission 3 <YouthCom3@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:10 PM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Agenda Item G.3 - Youth Bill of Rights in Rules Committee

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I'm a student in San Jose, and I support Councilmember Arenas' memo on performing an audit in the city and implementing the updated version of the Youth Bill of Rights in San Jose. It's been around a decade since the Youth Bill of Rights was first written, and I personally believe that this update in adherence is needed for our city and youth so that we may expect a better quality of life.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Hoang



# OPPORTUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Dear member of the Rules and Open Government Committee,

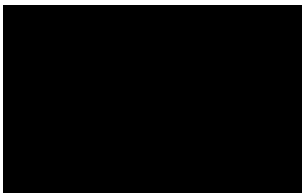
I am writing today in support of the audit of the San José Bill of Rights for Children and Youth proposed by councilmember Arenas.

While I do not desire to create additional work for the City staff at this time of immense strain, I do believe that it is important we work to align programs at much deeper level in pursuit of a true *Opportunity Ecosystem* for all youth and young adults. As we move beyond COVID – but also reflecting issues that existed prior – I am concerned that we are readying ourselves to design more one-off, unintegrated programs that aren't built to respond to the complexities of the lives of low-resource black and brown youth and young adults. COVID pulled back the curtain on inequity, and it is important we design with the intent to remedy longstanding issues of unequal resources and access.

In the new Bill of Rights for Children and Youth, I see young people demanding education and training, and human development experiences that are coherent and linked. Particularly in “Article 2: They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, be self-sufficient, and contribute to their community.” and “Article 3: They have access to up-to-date educational resources that promote success in life, in future careers, and a love of life-long learning.” I think we would be hard pressed to look young people in the eye and authentically say we have delivered. The City has many pieces in place, but to move to the next level requires careful attention to detail and great intentionality to build a seamless system.

As we look to the recovery, it seems an appropriate time to pause and assess our current state with regard to serving youth and young adults in San Jose. Young leaders have told us what they want and need. Now, I think our duty as adult allies is to consider whether we are able to deliver. An audit seems an appropriate way to lift up this information to open dialogue and consider whether we are delivering for the next generation.

Respectfully,



Joe Herrity

Director, Opportunity Youth Partnership

[jherrity@sccoe.org](mailto:jherrity@sccoe.org)