

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Louie Zarate

**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 02:02 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1428

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a youth organizer, I would like to say that I am glad that there is action being taken to invest in our communities especially children and families. There is still, however, the need for the direct investment of youth through the creation of a youth development department. Addressing the needs of youth under a department that serves different needs and populations would not ensure the proper accountability for funding of youth investment. Having a department that focuses on just youth would ensure that our young people like myself are getting all the support that we need. When we are having conversations regarding youth development, youth should be included in this process. NO MORE CONVERSATION ABOUT US WITHOUT US! We are the experts of our own stories and know what resources are needed in our own communities. We hope to be able to work with council to make sure that youth voices are actually heard and that the possibility of having both departments, one for families and community and one for youth, be considered.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Monica Rodriguez

**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 02:04 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1428

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, My name is Monica and I am one of the 2 youth that currently sits on the City's Executive Youth Development Task Force. We are in favor of the MARTINEZ- RODRIGUEZ motion BUT let's make it even stronger and more effective by putting our young people 1st and investing in a Youth Development Department as well. The task force was established with the help of Councilwoman Rodriguez with the purpose to establish a Youth Development Department, we have worked diligently to get youth input and we want to know what happened to that motion. We're asking for your support to have that process respected and for it to be followed through. Please meet with us to work in collaboration and in solidarity to help make this happen. WE'VE DONE THE WORK ALREADY, you all have the reports and the Youth Development Taskforce is about to complete the Youth Development Department blueprint in January. This was done through numerous community listening sessions and youth town halls. The framework is all there, the work is laid out for you all, now it's time for the Council to step up to the plate and make it happen. All we ask that you consider having a youth department as well as a department for communities and families. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michelle Gutierrez

**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 02:06 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1428

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Michelle and I am a youth leader from Pacoima Beautiful and also one of the two youth that currently sits on the City's Executive Youth Development Task Force. Youth across the city have been advocating for a youth development department for the last 7 years and we are finally creating the framework and blueprint of it through the City's executive youth development task force. The work is already being done for you all. We have created a youth survey to hear from youth priorities and needs, we have done numerous listening sessions and youth forums, and now we are here to ask you to support our effort and respect our process. We are definitely in favor of this motion and the creation of this Family, Children, and community investment Department BUT we are also asking FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP and champion in Creating an independent youth development department. THERE still needs to be an investment and LONG TERM planning done strictly for youth. We're worried that having this proposed Family and children department will not give youth the FOCUS that we deserve. We're worried that Youth issues and youth empowerment will get lost under a BIG department and that our voices will once AGAIN not be heard. We can look at LA county for guidance seeing as they had an office but they NOW moved to the creation of a Youth DEPARTMENT. If the county figured it out, so can LA City. If you truly want to support and empower youth, this is your opportunity to hold up to that responsibility.