

Communication from Public

Name: Oscar Alberto Dominguez

Date Submitted: 02/27/2021 12:45 AM

Council File No: 21-0223

Comments for Public Posting: Hello Council Members. My name is Oscar Alberto Dominguez and I'm 26 years old. I live in Council District 1, I was born in this city, and I'm a Youth Organizer with the Invest in Youth Coalition. I'm asking y'all to vote YES on the creation of a much needed Youth Development Department in our city because the youth of today and of the future need to be equitably and holistically invested in so that they can fully grow, transform, connect, improve, evolve, heal, flourish, innovate, and sustain themselves and their communities as young generations will need to be prepared to solve the many problems we have in our communities today and will have in the future. Our city is not appropriately, transparently, efficiently, and effectively funding and supporting all of the youth in our city, thereby not adequately preparing us for a better future and leaving many youth behind which is very disappointing especially when we are dealing with a pandemic. The youth know that our city has the funding and capacity to provide them with what they need especially during this pandemic. The inequalities, injustices, and inequities that youth, especially in communities of color, faced before the pandemic have worsened and our city needs to form a new strategy and vision to care for and uplift the spirits and livelihoods of all the youth who will need a path of recovery and empowerment as we rise out of this pandemic. Imagine how our city could have supported youth if we had a Youth Development Department before the pandemic started. Now imagine what it could do for youth now and in future pandemics or emergency situations. The youth know what they need, how they want to be served, and have done the work along with adult allies, community organizations, and the city council appointed Executive Youth Development Task Force to offer the city solutions to their problems. The youth are asking for their long overdue Youth Development Department. They deserve it and our city needs to prioritize them. We need y'all to do the right thing by the youth as you would do with your children, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren and show that our city truly cares about all of the youth in this city especially during these times. Thank you.