

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Is is imperative that we begin to evaluate, reflect, and refine how we invest in our youth and formulate policy and programming that will afford youth the opportunity to not just fit in but to excel in society. With a City Youth Department, I believe we can begin to address the needs of children ages 10-25 because they will be able to analyze data, identify the root causes of systemic oppression, and develop programs, that will be consistently evaluated for effectiveness, that will impact the youth. We owe the youth an opportunity to dream big, by providing opportunities for them to disconnect from an environment that has made their dreams into fairytales. We owe them people who can support them from an holistic approach to ensure they persevere. The Youth Department would begin to reconcile some of the wrongs of inequities and injustices our city has allowed in communities of color. This is an opportunity to take funding and develop programming rooted in equity, access, and liberation. An opportunity to develop youth that will be able to thrive and pay forward the investment you have given them. This is an opportunity to right some of the wrongs of the past and remind our youth that they matter. I pray that you move to have this initiative on the 2022 ballot and fully fund it until all the ills within our communities are eliminated and the data no longer suggest a narrative that youth are highly likely to be in prisons rather than colleges. We can make change if you thoroughly consider what is in the best interest of our youth. It is time to transform our city by effectively investing in our youth. Thank you for your consideration.