



# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Vice Mayor  
Judy Chirco

**SUBJECT:** BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**DATE:** April 27, 2010

Approved

*Judy Chirco*

Date

*4/29/10*

## RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Rules and Open Government Committee place on the agenda for the Evening Session of the May 18, 2010 City Council Meeting an item to adopt a resolution supporting the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth developed by the San Jose Youth Commission.

## REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

For the past year, the San Jose Youth Commission has been working to develop the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in order to raise awareness of issues facing young people and ensure that youth are heard in the decision making processes. I applaud the San Jose Youth Commissioners for all of their hard work on this issue and request that the City Council adopt the attached resolution in support of the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in an effort to reaffirm our support for the youth of San Jose.

The Bill of Rights for Children and Youth will provide a guideline for the City Council when making decisions or formulating policies that may affect youth. It will help to raise the profile of youth issues in San Jose and will aid us in providing for the health, safety, equality, and education of children and youth in San Jose.

Attachment:

- Draft City Council Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE ADOPTING A BILL OF RIGHTS TO SUPPORT AND HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE**

**WHEREAS**, the San José Youth Commission ("Youth Commission") was formed to foster greater involvement of youth in municipal government, specifically to study any problems, activities, and concerns of youth relating to municipal policies, programs, or projects of the City of San José ("City"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council with the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Commission recommends that City Council advocate that all children and youth have equal rights to live in a just, moral, and supportive society; all children and youth have the same rights, regardless of their culture, race, gender, or gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability; and that all children and youth have the right to a better world than the one they inherited; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Commission has recommended that the City Council adopt a Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of San José based on the version adopted by the County of San Mateo, and also adopted at the California State level in 2009, with the addition of an emphasis on peer-to-peer relations and recognition of San José's diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council appreciates the efforts of the Youth Commission to develop additional and more detailed ideas on the concepts articulated in the Bill of

Rights, a copy of which may be obtained from the Youth Commission members or from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of San José is intended to draw the attention of all City and local agencies, parents, guardians, and private enterprises throughout the City and to provide them with guidance in their decision making in order to foster the needs and healthy development of all children, youth, and families in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of San José desires that every child and youth be safe, healthy, successful in learning and successful in life, regardless of their language, culture, race, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or developmental abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council believes that San José is enriched by the diversity of its children and youth and desires that the children of San Jose have the opportunities set forth in the Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of San José;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:**

1. The Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of San José, attached hereto as EXHIBIT A, is hereby adopted as aspirational guidelines to demonstrate the importance of youth to the City of San Jose, and to help San Jose youth receive the resources that they need to succeed; and
2. With the adoption of this Resolution, the City Council supports and encourages all City and local agencies, parents, guardians, and private enterprises to adopt, publicize, and use as guidance the Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City

RD:BKJ:RPH  
4/22/2010

of San José when considering and developing their programs and activities for the benefit of our youth.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

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CHUCK REED  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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LEE PRICE, MMC  
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

**SAN JOSE BILL OF RIGHTS**  
**FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Therefore, we resolve to support San José children and youth so that:

- They have a healthy mind, body, and spirit that enables them to maximize their potential.
- They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, become self-sufficient, and contribute to their community.
- They have access to 21<sup>st</sup>-century education that promotes success in life, in future careers, and a love of life-long learning.
- They have employment opportunities with protections from unfair labor practices.
- They have a voice in matters that affect them.
- They have freedom from mistreatment, abuse, and neglect.
- Their essential needs are met – food, clothing, shelter, accessible transportation, and affordable healthcare.
- They have a safe and healthy environment, including schools, home, neighborhood, and communities.
- They develop ongoing relationships with caring, trusting, and supportive adults.
- They foster positive peer influence by modeling responsible behaviors for their peers. \*
- They have knowledge of and comfort with people of diverse cultural, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds as well as genders/gender identities, sexual orientations, and developmental abilities. \*

\* Denotes articles added by the San José Youth Commission that are not adopted at the California State level.