

County of Alameda Recognizing November 2021 as Runaway & Homeless Youth Prevention Month

WHEREAS, youth homelessness is complex and distinct from adult homelessness, with family disruption being a leading factor, youth experiencing homelessness often have experienced conflict, abuse, neglect, exposure to domestic violence and poverty in their homes; and

WHEREAS, at least 25% of all people currently experiencing homelessness first experienced homeless before their 25th birthday; and

WHEREAS, there were at least 1,481 youth under age 25 experiencing homelessness in Alameda County in the last year, of which an overrepresentation – compared to the general youth population – were youth of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender; and

WHEREAS, 82% of unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Alameda County are unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, only 4.5% of emergency shelter beds in Alameda County are for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 Pandemic has put a spotlight on the service and resource gaps for youth experiencing homelessness, with providers serving youth struggling to meet the needs of young people who have no safe spaces to shelter in place and an inadequate safety net to hold them; and

WHEREAS, COVID Relief funds such as CARES have no specific allocation to support the needs of youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, youth experiencing homelessness between the ages of 12 and 24 become disconnected from educational systems and graduate at far lower rates, which has significant negative implications for career trajectories and lifetime earnings; and

WHEREAS, youth experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of being stopped by police and arrested; and

WHEREAS, youth with former involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems have an increased risk of experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, minor youth whose circumstances meet the legal definition of abuse and neglect may benefit from entering the foster care system, however report barriers to entry and accessing essential resources; and

WHEREAS, preventing youth homelessness and providing safe, stable, and permanent housing for runaway and homeless youth is a family, community, state and national priority; and

WHEREAS, preventing and ending youth homelessness requires a coordinated system of robust diversion and prevention strategies, housing and support services, education and workforce programs, and health and wellness supports, all tailored to the unique needs of young people that are designed for and by youth with lived experience.

NOW THEREFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim **November 2021** as **National Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month**, and affirms its commitment to actively engage the Alameda County Youth Action Board (YAB) of which members are TAY (transition aged youth) with lived experience of insecure housing and homelessness to provide the Board of Supervisors “advice, comment and recommendation” on all proposed legislation, policies, programs and resources that affect unhoused youth in Alameda County. The Board of Supervisors will work to explore how to best incorporate the YAB into the decision-making structure whether that is as a “committee,” “council” or “working group”.

**KEITH CARSON, PRESIDENT
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT**

**NATE MILEY, VICE-PRESIDENT
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT**

**DAVID HAUBERT
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