

Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is Maya Mackey and I am the acting chair of the San Antonio Youth Commission, an organ of the city government in San Antonio that aims to amplify and illuminate the voice of youth in San Antonio. Since the Commission is beginning its new year, I am reaching out to you in the spirit of pursuing a closer collaborative relationship with the City Council and Mayoral Offices and to inform you of some priority items for SAYC that we believe the City Council and your individual office can assist us with.

The San Antonio Youth Commission was launched on July 25, 1991 in order to provide youth a chance to make their voices heard on important issues in the city. We firmly believe in the power of youth to enact change as important stakeholders in the San Antonio community. This year, the Commission had the honor of presenting to the Community Health and Equity Subcommittee of City Council, outlining important policy areas that we plan on developing further throughout the year. In addition, SAYC is working hard to better streamline the internal procedures of the Commission. We are looking forward to a busy year, and on behalf of the Commission I wanted to request that District\_\_\_\_/ the Mayoral offices and City Council as a whole consider in which areas of our agenda they might like to collaborate with SAYC.

One of our top priorities is filling the vacancies that were left by members graduating the Commission, as the Commission has as of yet been unable to reach quorum for this season. As you are responsible for appointing these members to the Commission, we request that you please take necessary efforts to fill any vacancies that may exist on the Youth Commission for District \_\_\_\_/ the Mayoral Office. If you would like any assistance in advertising vacancies to youth, please contact me or the Youth Commission as a whole at [sanantonioyc@gmail.com](mailto:sanantonioyc@gmail.com), as we are currently developing a general awareness campaign to get slots filled by reaching out to superintendents and principals as well as exploring social media as avenues of outreach to youth who may wish to apply. We are looking for engaged, energetic individuals who will be able to make a substantial commitment to the Youth Commission. On behalf of SAYC, I would also like to suggest that prospective members are referred to a SAYC member or liason in order to coordinate their attendance to a meeting before or upon receipt of their application so that they may gauge their interest in the Youth Commission. It is my hope that by coordinating our efforts with your office, SAYC will be able to fill vacancies quickly and recruit members who are able to make a positive impact on the Commission and the city's youth as a whole. Thank you for being a part of this important process.

The Youth Commission would also like to discuss the possibility of a City Council Youth Voter Challenge in order to increase voter turnout among youth and make their voices heard through the electoral process. This is a recommendation that the Commission is enthusiastic about and wants to pursue through further discussion and collaboration with Council so that our distinct perspectives can come together to shape this initiative. We request that the City Council consider this and encourage you to come to myself or the Commission in order to ask any questions and establish a time that the two bodies could possibly come together to discuss the preliminary steps towards implementing this plan. We are also entertaining several other ideas for areas of collaboration in our mental health policy area, and will contact you as those opportunities arise.

On behalf of the San Antonio Youth Commission, thank you so much for your time and I look forward to working with you on these critical initiatives. I look forward to an impactful partnership and am excited to see the positive impacts that we will create for San Antonio's youth in this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Maya Mackey  
Chair, San Antonio Youth Commission

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