

Testimony to City Council
“Yes Youth Can: Confronting the Challenges of Youth Aging Out” Round Table

Cierra Mitchell

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Hello, Mr. Well and Guest My name is Cierra Mitchell I am 16 years old. I attend Maya Angelo Public Charter School. I've been in the foster care system for 6 years. Being in the foster care systems has changed me a lot. I have seen social workers come and go and help and sometimes they didn't help.

The systems have its pro and cons. I have been in 2 foster homes and 2 group homes. I want to know why social workers trick us in to going to keys for life in order to get help from Mr. Goodwin. When I was living in my old group home Saga Adventures they made us go to keys for life but it was so boring and my opinion personal it wasn't helpful to me. In June 2008 I've moved to Saga Adventures with my older sister Loretta I look up to my sister all the time I like Saga a lot but then I notice how mean the other girls were to each other and how staff told residents confidential information, I remember the house manager would not give my sister her allowance because she was going to a school that paid her attend, it opened my eyes a little bit more is this really a place I want to be. In December my sister turned 18 so I knew it was going to be really soon before her social call and told her she was moving into an Independent living program, three days after Christmas my sister said that she was moving to independent living, I didn't want here to go but I knew it was time for to go because my sister had been there for along time and she just turn 18. When my sister left I met a nice girl name Brittany and she was really sweet.

Aging Out

Aging out is very important to me because my sister is about to age out so I can see what going to happen and how its going to change her she is very strong and I know she is going to make it. When I age out I want to make sure that I have a stable place of my own have money save up and be ready for whatever life has to bring me. I wish the best for my sister and I know that she is gong

to do very well my sister has done a lot for me and I'm happy that she has been by my side the entire time when been in the system

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME