City Council Member Kim's Inaugural

2026 State of the Youth Address

AGENDA

- YOB
- Poems
- Speeches
- Asks of the City

Eliza Johnson

Charlie St. Dennis

"We can have stronger multimodal transportation options. We can promote the use of cleaner energy. We can have a robust tree canopy that not only looks beautiful, but makes the air we breathe cleaner. We can work with intergovernmental partners to have municipal composting, strong public transit, and better parks.

I hope we remember that investing in sustainability is investing in young people. We are the generation that will inherit the decisions made in the coming months. We will live with the transportation systems funded, the trees planted, the air we breathe, the parks we maintain, and the climate that results from the choices we make today."

Emmanuel Adeogun

"Me and my family were personally affected because they were scared that something would happen to one of us especially with ice being spotted around our neighborhood so I had to take pictures of my younger siblings documents to make sure if anything were to happen at least I have proof that they belong here. I was isolated at home I only went to school and came right back home because my parents didn't know what could happen, it has affected a lot of people. Also in my community I went around asking people about their experience and what I heard was devastating, people could not even leave there house to get basic needs for their family like toiletry or food because they feared they would get racially profiled, a good friend of mine had church members that were taken across the country and put into dentition centers just to get released."

Moriah Anderson

"When you don't have reliable housing, it dismantles every other aspect of your life and makes it nearly impossible to put it back together. In 2025, I remember how much I hated my life and how I lived. Everything in my life was unorganized and unstable. I couldn't be alone. I couldn't even focus on my appearance, which is wildly out of character for me, and I was incapable of living outside of my day to day."

"It was very helpful at the time to find something to help me feel human again. Unfortunately for some, that thing is substances or other harmful acts, but for me, that was my friends. They were my home. **Imagine how different my experience could have been if housing was treated like a right** rather than a privilege, for everyone, but especially youth."

Gay Ler Tha

"Right Track has taught me more than a lot of things that I have experienced that were supposed to give me an idea of what work is like. Right Track did something for me that many other things didn't do. And that allowed me to actually face it head on with proper guidance and expectancy. As someone who doesn't even know what they really want to do in the future, this opportunity finally gave me a clear vision of what I was truly passionate about.

"Right Track gave a ton of opportunities for all kinds of different areas everybody specializes in. This was a first time experience for me, however **it was also an experience that actually gave me an idea of what to fully expect to do when I actually enter a professional environment**... Right Track did exactly that and guided me to Youth On Boards, which led me to ultimately get the full expectancy in working in an unusual environment."

Jacy Johnson Becker

“This year Right track only had enough internships for half of their applicants. Which means these internships are what we are looking for. For us it means our future, I would love to see my friends and youth all around the city getting opportunities that will mean something to them. Opportunities to connect with career professionals and time spent in the workplace it not something we take for granted. So, I ask from the city , is to grow programs dedicated to giving us work experience. Whether that's increasing funding or expand the types of internships offered connecting with local businesses. “

Fernando Bejarano Aguilera

"We didn't just lose time in the classroom; we also lost the opportunity to spend time together, talk with our classmates, and feel that we had a community around us. In addition to the anxiety of leaving our houses, with the terror that if we left that door, we might not come back to close it. Many of us had to rely on neighbors and friends to take the trash or get food delivered to the door. For many students, including myself, that isolation had a huge impact on our mental health. It got to the point where I lost my way and wanted to end my life. And while we tried to focus on our classes, many of us were also worried about much more basic things: Would my family have a home to live in? Would we have food? Would our family and friends be safe?

On our worst days we need a designated team to rapidly respond, the city's only designated unit is the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services or CARES. Please keep this designated unit a part of the St Paul Fire Department."

Asks of the city

- Climate Director
- Right Track Funding
- Housing First
- Legal aid for immigrants
- Keep CARES Unit
- Safer Bike Routes

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