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Ali Knight Appointed President and CEO of Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Christa Gannon to Take on Full-Time Founder Role at FLY

In a virtual public ceremony held on June 30, 2020, the Board of Directors of Fresh Lifelines for Youth (“FLY”) formally appointed Ali Knight, FLY’s COO for the past six years, President and CEO of the organization. FLY’s Founder and former Chief Executive Officer of 20 years, Christa Gannon, stepped down and moved into a new full-time role as FLY’s Founder.

“We are thrilled to have Ali take the helm after six years as a senior leader at FLY and close to 20 years of public service dedicated to youth leadership, systems change, and community transformation. He has been instrumental in FLY’s growth of nearly 80% over the past six years, which included expansion into Alameda County, strengthening the agency’s program offerings to meet community needs, and developing new initiatives including the strategic plan, Imagine 2030,” said June Wang, Vice-Chair of FLY’s Board of Directors. “Ali and Christa have worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition in leadership with a strong focus on our goals for growth,”

“I’m honored and grateful for the opportunity to guide the agency toward our vision of justice and opportunity for young people on a much broader scale. We have built a wide network of support for youth and given them a platform to use their voices for change in their communities and our nation,” said Ali Knight. “As we prepare to celebrate FLY’s 20th anniversary and implement Imagine 2030 to reach 30,000 young people and help dismantle the pipeline to prison for California’s youth, we are stronger and more committed than ever to bending the arc of the universe toward justice.”

“For more than 20 years, Christa has been a well-respected entrepreneur in the juvenile justice sector, bringing to life a unique vision for helping youth exit or avoid the pipeline to prison, and transforming the juvenile justice system to be more effective and humane,” said Mark Donnelly, Chair of the Board. “As we move through the first phase of Imagine 2030, we are excited to have Christa taking on the formal Founder’s role.”

Christa Gannon will continue working for justice for FLY's young people in a very strategic capacity, both in the agency's local jurisdictions and statewide. "I'm excited to transition from day-to-day leadership and focus on the role of advocate and ambassador on behalf of young people impacted by the juvenile justice system," she said. "FLY has benefitted, and will continue to benefit tremendously from Ali's leadership. His experience and passion for justice, equity, service, and system reform are exactly what FLY and our country needs at this critical juncture in our history."

[Ali Knight, MPA Biography](#)

[Christa M. Gannon, JD Biography](#)

About Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Founded in 2000, Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) is an award-winning nonprofit serving youth in the juvenile justice system and those at risk. In FY18-19, FLY served more than 2,500 young people ages 11-24 in 49 cities across Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Alameda counties. We educate young people about the law, support them to become leaders among their peers, and give them positive mentors and role models. We also help our juvenile justice systems become more just, humane, and equitable. As a result, FLY increases safety in our communities and decreases the costs and consequences of crime. Visit us at flyprogram.org.