

1 [Urging for the Establishment of a Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention Program]

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3 **Resolution urging for the establishment of a Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention**
4 **Program to address the absence of coordinated neighborhood-based prevention**
5 **infrastructure; build pathways for safety, healing, and opportunity for youth ages 12-**
6 **24; and reduce violence through sustained, trauma-informed, and community-driven**
7 **strategies.**

8
9 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin neighborhood has the highest density of children in San
10 Francisco, with more than 3,500 children and youth residing within its fifty square blocks, yet
11 those young people face daily exposure to unsafe street conditions, drug activity, overdoses,
12 and violence; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2023, nearly half of all police-reported drug offenses in San Francisco
14 occurred in the Tenderloin, and the neighborhood accounted for 18 percent of the City's
15 overdose deaths - conditions that place children and families at risk of direct harm and chronic
16 trauma; and

17 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin has one of the highest concentrations of overdose deaths,
18 violent incidents, and trauma exposures in San Francisco, conditions that mirror and
19 exacerbate public health disparities affecting children and youth in the neighborhood; and

20 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health identifies violence as a
21 public health issue that causes injury, death, and chronic trauma, with effects including toxic
22 stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, and long-term physical and mental health harm among
23 youth exposed to community violence; and

24 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Health, the Tenderloin consistently
25 records the City's highest rates of emergency medical responses for overdoses and assaults,

1 underscoring the direct health impacts of chronic exposure to violence and substance use;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms that violence is
4 among the leading causes of death for people aged 1-39, and that violence exposure, even
5 without physical injury, has measurable lifelong impacts on health and well-being; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognizing violence as a public health crisis enables coordinated, non-
7 carceral, trauma-informed interventions that focus on prevention, healing, and community
8 safety-the same framework that has guided the City's overdose response, yet has not been
9 systematically applied to youth violence in the Tenderloin; and

10 WHEREAS, Local reporting shows that youth as young as 13 have been observed
11 selling drugs on street corners in the Tenderloin, and at least 57 youth aged 13-17 have been
12 arrested in San Francisco for drug dealing since August 2023, with many of those incidents
13 occurring in or around the Tenderloin; and

14 WHEREAS, In February 2025, two men were charged in San Francisco Superior Court
15 with using a minor to distribute narcotics in the Tenderloin, underscoring active recruitment of
16 youth into the local drug trade; and

17 WHEREAS, These incidents demonstrate a worsening pattern of youth exposure to
18 violence, criminal exploitation, and trauma, making now a critical moment for the City to invest
19 in a sustained, neighborhood-specific violence prevention strategy centered on the
20 Tenderloin; and

21 WHEREAS, Citywide data reflect a broader trend of rising youth victimization, with the
22 number of victims of crime under the age of 18 served by the District Attorney's Victim
23 Services Division increasing substantially in 2023 compared to 2022, including a 29 percent
24 rise among victims aged 12 and younger and a 45 percent rise among victims aged 13 to 17;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, A youth violence prevention program is defined by the Centers for Disease
2 Control and Prevention as a public health approach that addresses the root causes of
3 violence by building individual skills, strengthening relationships, and creating safe and
4 supportive environments for young people; and

5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and
6 Delinquency Prevention identifies effective violence prevention as community-based and non-
7 carceral, grounded in local partnerships that reduce risk factors, promote protective factors,
8 and engage youth and families before violence occurs; and

9 WHEREAS, The California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) grant
10 framework defines these programs as community-driven strategies combining outreach, life-
11 coaching, case management, and employment support to interrupt cycles of violence and
12 retaliation; and

13 WHEREAS, Core components of youth violence prevention include cohort-based
14 mentorship, afterschool and recreational programming, trauma-informed counseling, and
15 workforce development pathways that empower youth to build safe, connected, and
16 economically secure lives; and

17 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin Community Action Plan, developed through years of
18 neighborhood-based outreach, surveys, and youth focus groups, identified Youth Investment
19 as one of seven strategic priorities essential to transforming the Tenderloin into a thriving,
20 equitable neighborhood; and

21 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis confirmed significant gaps in
22 low-barrier programming for disconnected youth, insufficient workforce development and
23 mentorship pathways, a lack of culturally responsive supports for immigrant youth, and limited
24 supports for justice-involved youth, while also emphasizing the need for stronger coordination
25 among City agencies and community organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, Tenderloin youth ages 12 to 24 face a particularly severe service gap:
2 while programs exist for younger children through schools and the Boys & Girls Club, many
3 teens and young adults lose access to structured mentorship, recreation, or employment
4 pathways once they age out of those programs, leaving them increasingly vulnerable to
5 recruitment into the neighborhood's drug trade and cycles of violence; and

6 WHEREAS, No City department currently operates a comprehensive, neighborhood-
7 specific violence prevention program in the Tenderloin comparable to those established in
8 other high-need communities such as Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley, leaving a
9 critical gap in sustained, coordinated prevention and intervention efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, The Wraparound Project at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital,
11 based in the Mission District, has reduced re-injury rates among violently injured patients by
12 half through hospital-based intervention and case management; and

13 WHEREAS, United Playaz, based in the South of Market neighborhood and serving
14 youth across South of Market, Visitacion Valley, Bayview-Hunters Point, and other high-need
15 neighborhoods, has provided mentorship, mediation, and employment pathways for
16 thousands of San Francisco youth, reducing recidivism and building community safety for
17 nearly three decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Mission Graduates, based in the Mission District, provides comprehensive
19 educational and workforce development programs that help low-income and first-generation
20 youth succeed in school, graduate from college, and secure stable career pathways,
21 demonstrating how sustained, community-based investment in young people can reduce risk
22 factors for violence and promote long-term stability and opportunity; and

23 WHEREAS, The School Crisis Support Initiative, coordinated by DCYF, SFUSD, and
24 community partners, operates across schools in neighborhoods including Bayview, Visitacion
25

1 Valley, the Mission, and SoMa to provide immediate intervention and stabilization after
2 incidents of school-based violence; and

3 WHEREAS, The City's Violence Reduction Initiative (VRI), led in partnership with
4 community stakeholders, has been deployed in Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley,
5 demonstrating that coordinated strategies combining outreach, case management, and data-
6 driven prevention can reduce violent incidents when consistently applied; and

7 WHEREAS, District 10 has served as a model for neighborhood-based violence
8 prevention and intervention, developing and implementing a comprehensive District 10 Public
9 Safety Plan beginning in 2020 that engaged residents, youth, community organizations, and
10 City departments to coordinate outreach, workforce development, and prevention efforts -
11 demonstrating how sustained, community-driven strategies can reduce violence and
12 strengthen public safety across neighborhoods; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the demonstrated success of these violence prevention models,
14 no comparable, structured, and resourced violence prevention infrastructure currently exists in
15 the Tenderloin; and

16 WHEREAS, The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which
17 includes the Division of Violence Prevention, operates with an annual budget of approximately
18 \$761,000,000 while federal expenditures for heart disease prevention, research, and
19 treatment exceed tens of billions of dollars annually, underscoring the systemic
20 underinvestment in addressing violence as a public health epidemic; and

21 WHEREAS, Without deliberate, sustained investment, violence in neighborhoods such
22 as the Tenderloin can grow into an entrenched epidemic - spreading harm, trauma, health
23 inequities, and loss of life - not only among youth but across families and generations; and

24 WHEREAS, Families and youth impacted by violence often need emergency support
25 such as housing stabilization, trauma counseling, or relocation assistance to prevent

1 displacement and re-traumatization, yet no consistent citywide program exists to deliver these
2 supports, let alone in the Tenderloin; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls for the creation of a Tenderloin Youth
4 Violence Prevention Program, anchored in the recommendations of the Tenderloin
5 Community Action Plan and the Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis, with explicit goals of
6 reducing neighborhood-level violence, supporting youth resilience, and restoring community
7 safety; and

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to prioritize
9 sustained funding for the Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention Program in future budget
10 cycles and to pursue philanthropic and private partnerships to support its creation, expansion,
11 and evaluation, ensuring that violence prevention is treated as an essential and enduring
12 public health investment rather than a short-term initiative, and that the City commits to
13 providing ongoing financial support to maintain program stability and impact over time.