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.
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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 chroni
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

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;

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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

supports for justice-involved youth, while also emphasizing the need for stronger coordination

among City agencies and community organizations; and

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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

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

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.
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