

1 [Adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child]

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3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to adopt the United Nations Convention on**
4 **the Rights of the Child and supporting its inalienable freedoms for children and youth**
5 **in San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes that children and youth
8 are unique and invaluable to the human race as the continuum of our existence and
9 livelihood,

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes that youth and children
11 under 18 comprise nearly 15 percent of the population of San Francisco, and nearly 40
12 percent of households in San Francisco have children and youth under 18, and

13 WHEREAS, The SF Youth Commission recognizes that between the years of 2000 to
14 2006 the population of youth in SF between the ages of 15 through 19 declined by nearly 15
15 percent, and

16 WHEREAS, Youth in San Francisco face numerous risk factors to their health growth
17 and development, including harmful outside influences, such as abuse, exploitation, drugs,
18 and gangs, so that in 2006 45% of youth in San Francisco felt at risk due to gang involvement
19 and violence in their communities, and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco youth have identified a problem with the family core such
21 that 45% of youth feel at risk due to poor family supervision; and the Foster care System is
22 overburdened with over 1,700 youth in San Francisco's Foster Care system in fall 2007, and

23 WHEREAS, In 2007, almost 13,000 families in San Francisco made choices between
24 basic needs such as rent, utilities, and food as a result of limited income, and San Francisco
25 public schools are floundering at only 61% capacity, and

1 WHEREAS, Undocumented youth in San Francisco are denied the right to be returned
2 to parents if forcefully removed due to deportation; and there are 18,000 youth between the
3 ages of 12 and 16 with at least one immigrant parent, and

4 WHEREAS, Last year, the City of San Francisco initiated a new policy to automatically
5 refer undocumented youth charged with felonies to Immigration and Customs Enforcement
6 officials before their adjudication: and,

7 WHEREAS, In the light of these risks, San Francisco is in need of a policy that aims to
8 transform and improve the plight of youth in San Francisco, and

9 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets standards of basic human
10 rights for children, and seeks to help the States and Governments fulfill their basic needs, and

11 WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 19, 33, 34, and 36
12 indicate that children have a right to be protected from violence, abuse and economic
13 exploitation, and

14 WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 3, 39, and 40
15 pertain to the right that children have to basic needs such as education, housing, healthcare
16 etc., and

17 WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child articles 9, 11 indicates that
18 children who are removed from their parents due to deportation have a right to be returned to
19 their families where it is feasible and in the best interests of the youth, and

20 WHEREAS, The Convention states in article 40 that each child is an individual, neither
21 a possession nor harlequin object, whose freedoms, as protected by the Constitution of our
22 Founding Fathers and the Bill of Rights, cannot be stripped away; and

23 WHEREAS, Article 40 further states that “Every child alleged or accused of having
24 infringed penal law” has the right to be considered innocent before proven guilty and has the
25 right to due process under the law; and,

1 WHEREAS, The UN Convention of the Rights of the child articles 12, 13 and 14
2 pertain to the right that children and youth have to the unabridged freedom of expression, and

3 WHEREAS, Support of the convention will bring forth the Youth Commission message-
4 that the unheard voices of youth be free to permeate our government's walls to influence and
5 inform the legislation affecting us; therefore, be it

6 WHEREAS, That the San Francisco Youth Commission adopts the UN Convention on
7 the Rights of Child Policy, with the convention as a guide for advocating for youth, and be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors adopts the UN Convention on the Rights
9 of the Child,

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors following the United Nations
11 Conventions on the Rights of the Child hereby declares it City policy to provide every
12 incarcerated youth his or her right to full due process under the law before any City employee
13 initiates communication with federal immigration officials regarding said youth's disposition.

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