

1 [Supporting Free Muni For All Youth]

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3 **Resolution supporting the budget allocation of \$2,000,000 for “Free Muni For All**
4 **Youth” for a period of 12 months; urging the Municipal Transportation Agency to**
5 **implement this program effective August 15, 2021, and to partner with the San**
6 **Francisco Unified School District and all San Francisco schools on a comprehensive**
7 **outreach effort.**

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9 WHEREAS, Numerous studies have established a link between exposure to transit at
10 an early age leads to a continued use in adult years, along with a decrease in auto-ownership;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In support of this goal, the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA)
13 implemented the “Free Muni For Youth” pilot program in 2013 providing free transit service to
14 all low and moderate-income youth in San Francisco aged five through 17 years old; and

15 WHEREAS, Almost a decade ago, the San Francisco Youth Commission fought
16 alongside community partners to win the existing Free Muni for Low-Income Youth program,
17 which began in 2013 as a pilot; and

18 WHEREAS, In January 2015, this program was later made permanent, followed by the
19 expansion to 18-year-old students, seniors and people with disabilities, and students enrolled
20 in special education and English learner programs through age 22; and

21 WHEREAS, There are 39,350 active users of the youth program, representing
22 approximately 72% of those eligible; and

23 WHEREAS, In order to participate in the current means tested Free Muni for Youth
24 program, parents submit an application to the MTA, and a clipper card loaded with a Free
25 Muni pass is mailed to their residence; and

1 WHEREAS, Even though the current Free Muni for Youth program is an improvement
2 for many low-income youth, the cumbersome application process paired with the requirement
3 to carry a pass to utilize the free program, and its lack of visibility within its target
4 demographic, where applications are not widely distributed to SFUSD student who heavily
5 rely on Muni, has been identified as a barrier to access; and

6 WHEREAS, The MTA approved creating a fare free program for all youth in its initial
7 fiscal year 2021 budget that was rescinded as part of the suspension of all fare changes
8 through fiscal year 2021 due to the pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, The Mayor has allocated \$2,000,000 in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget
10 for a 12-month pilot program to expand “Free Muni for All Youth” under the age of 19; and

11 WHEREAS, The expansion of this program to all youth would eliminate the application
12 and proof of payment requirement, removing barriers to the program; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the allocation of
14 \$2,000,000 in the city budget to fund this 12-month pilot project; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages the
16 MTA Director of Transportation to utilize the short-term experimental fare authority, authorized
17 under their budget to implement this program effective August 15, 2021, in conjunction with
18 the beginning of the school year; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests the
20 MTA, in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District, City College of San
21 Francisco, all San Francisco schools, and youth serving organizations to initiate a
22 comprehensive outreach campaign to inform San Francisco families of the expansion of this
23 program; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors request the
2 MTA conduct an evaluation and analysis of the impact of this program on transit by youth and
3 parents and incorporate this program into their long-term budget.

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