



San Francisco Community College District

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Office of the Chancellor

50 FRIDA KAHLO WAY • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112 • PHONE: (415) 239-3556

May 18, 2026

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City & County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Submission of Approved and Signed Resolution No. 2026-04-04: ***“Resolution Reaffirming the Free City College Program and Supporting its Long-Term Sustainability”***

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Please find enclosed the signed and approved resolution submitted on behalf of the San Francisco Community College District (SFCCD), namely City College of San Francisco (CCSF), in advance of the Board of Supervisors hearing on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

The enclosed materials include the following:

- Signed/Approved Resolution (No. 2026-04-04)

The SFCCD Board of Trustees, through President Chisti, respectfully requests that the resolution be made available on the appropriate agenda/calendar and processed in accordance with the City’s established Board procedures.

Additionally, at the request of the resolution’s approved language, a copy of this resolution will be disseminated to the Department of Children, Youth, & Families, Members of the Free City Oversight Committee, and Mayor Daniel Lurie’s office.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions and/or if additional information is required.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- ALIYA CHISTI | PRESIDENT • LUIS ZAMORA | VICE PRESIDENT
- STUDENT TRUSTEE ANGELICA M. CAMPOS | • TRUSTEE VICK CHUNG | • TRUSTEE RUTH FERGUSON
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- CHANCELLOR KIMBERLEE S. MESSINA, ED.D.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Shymansky".

Stephen Shymansky
Board Liaison Officer
City College of San Francisco
SShymansky@ccsf.edu

Cc: Brent Jalipa
Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City & County of San Francisco
Brent.Jalipa@sfgov.org

Aliya Chisti
President, Board of Trustees
San Francisco Community College District
achisti@ccsf.edu

Mayor Daniel Lurie
City & County of San Francisco
Mayor@sfgov.org

Members of the Free City Oversight Committee



**SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04-04

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE FREE CITY COLLEGE PROGRAM AND
SUPPORTING ITS LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Community College District (SFCCD), namely, City College of San Francisco (CCSF), serves as a foundational public institution for the City of San Francisco, providing accessible, high-quality education, workforce training, and pathways to economic mobility for a diverse population of San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, The Free City College Program is central to the SFCCD's ability to fulfill its mission of open access and educational equity, supporting working adults, immigrant communities, first-generation college students, and residents seeking career advancement, retraining, and upward mobility; and

WHEREAS, Free City College has become an integral part of the fabric of San Francisco, expanding access to higher education and strengthening the City's workforce and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco voters passed Proposition W in 2016, a real estate transfer tax that made Free City possible; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Board of Supervisors codified the Free City College Program in the San Francisco Administrative Code, establishing it as an ongoing City Program and affirming the policy goal of broad access to tuition-free community college; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City and County of San Francisco and the SFCCD entered into a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a multi-year funding framework for the Free City College Program, with base funding beginning at \$15.0 million, increasing to \$15.7 million and \$16.4 million, and continuing at \$16.4 million plus Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 MOU also established a Free City College Reserve Fund to support program stability during fiscal or enrollment fluctuations and to sustain continuity of access for students; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 424-24 reaffirming the City's commitment to the Free City College Program, recognizing its role in expanding educational access and supporting San Francisco residents, and stating that fiscal constraints should not override the core tenets of the program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70 percent of total credit students at CCSF participate in the Free City College Program, demonstrating the program's central role in student access and enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Free City College Annual Report for 2024–2025 shows that CCSF granted 32,007 Free City awards across Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025, representing the highest annual participation in the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the program serves equity populations at scale, with equity group students participating at rates comparable to non-equity students; and

WHEREAS, Free City College Program participants demonstrate higher persistence rates from fall to spring terms than the overall student population, contributing to improved student success outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the current design of the program strongly encourages students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid applications, and SFCCD has made significant progress in increasing student participation in these programs over time; and

WHEREAS, in December 2025, the MOU Subcommittee of the Free City College Oversight Committee advanced recommendations related to program sustainability, funding alignment, and student support, with the understanding that such efforts would maintain and build upon the core design and accessibility of the Free City College Program; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) proposed budget includes approximately \$6.48 million for Free City, which is below the approximately \$9 million needed to sustain the Program's core components of tuition waivers and grants, and also does not fully account for operational costs, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the SFCCD Board of Trustees affirms the critical importance of the Free City College Program to student success, educational access, and the economic well-being of San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees affirms its vision for the Free City College Program as one supported by consistent and sustainable funding, and further affirms that any revisions to the MOU preserves the original intent of the 10-year agreement, including a long-term funding commitment that addresses the cost of the core structure of the program, which are funds for tuition waivers and grants as well as supporting continued growth in student access; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees continues to support coordination with federal and state financial aid programs including FAFSA, in a manner aligned with the program's low barrier design and with the goal of maintaining broad and equitable access for students; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of CCSF is committed to supporting financial stability for the City and County of San Francisco, with the goal of preserving the core design, intent, and accessibility of the Free City College program and will continue to partner with the City and County of San Francisco to ensure the long-term sustainability, effectiveness, and equity of the Free City College Program; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chancellor transmits this Resolution to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Director of the DCYF, and the Free City College Oversight Committee.

Adopted on this day, the 23rd of April 2026.

AYES: Chisti, Zamora, Campos, Chung, Ferguson, Martinez, McCarty, Solomon

NAYS: N/A

ABSENT: N/A

ABSTAIN: N/A

Aliya Chisti

Aliya Chisti,
President of the Board of Trustees
City College of San Francisco

ATTEST:

Kimberlee S. Messina

Dr. Kimberlee S. Messina, Chancellor
City College of San Francisco

Stephen Shymansky

Stephen T. Shymansky, Board Liaison Officer
City College of San Francisco