

1 [Support of Cleaner School Buses for the San Francisco Unified School District]

2 **Resolution supporting Cleaner School Buses for the San Francisco Unified School**  
3 **District and urging the School District to aggressively pursue a new bus contract that**  
4 **would adhere to all the goals of the city to run clean, low-emission buses.**

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6 WHEREAS, Children in San Francisco are exposed, on a daily basis, to a significant  
7 amount of diesel exhaust from old diesel fueled school buses; and

8 WHEREAS, Diesel exhaust has identified by the California Air Resources Board to  
9 increase cancer risk, contribute to premature deaths, increase respiratory illnesses,  
10 exacerbate asthma and potentially lead to the onset of asthma; and

11 WHEREAS, Nitrogen oxides (NOx), another significant component of diesel exhaust,  
12 is a major contributor to ozone production and smog, and has recently been connected with  
13 decrease lung function growth in children; and

14 WHEREAS, Children are most susceptible to the negative health effects of diesel  
15 exhaust exposure because: (1) children’s developing body is less capable of defending itself  
16 against pollutants such as diesel particles, (2) children typically breathe twice as much air per  
17 their body weight as adults, thereby receiving greater doses of pollution, and (3) children  
18 tend to breathe through their mouths, thereby bypassing the natural filtering protections of  
19 the nose; and

20 WHEREAS, School buses used to transport children in the San Francisco Unified  
21 School District are among one of the highest polluting vehicles on the road today; and

22 WHEREAS, Several studies have demonstrated that that children riding school buses  
23 are exposed to greater levels of diesel exhaust inside a school bus compared to levels of  
24 diesel exhaust found outside a school bus and that diesel exhaust accumulates in the back  
25 of the school bus; and

1           WHEREAS, Cleaner and healthier alternatives to conventional diesel school buses  
2 exist, including natural gas school buses and advanced low-emitting diesel buses using  
3 particulate traps and ultra-low sulfur fuel, that are widely available, have been proven to be  
4 durable, and that emit less particulate matter, NOx and other air toxic; and

5           WHEREAS, San Francisco is committed to ensure cleaner and healthier buses for  
6 children as suggested by the public's overwhelming support (nearly 70%) of Proposition I, the  
7 Replacement of Diesel Buses operated by MUNI; and, therefore be it

8           RESOLVED that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly supports cleaner  
9 School Buses for the San Francisco Unified School District and urging the School District to  
10 aggressively pursue a new bus contract that would adhere to all the goals of the city to run  
11 clean, low-emission buses.