

1 [Recognizing the Youth Commission’s 20th Anniversary]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the Youth Commission’s 20th Anniversary and honoring its**  
4 **20 years of service to the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco has for decades led the country in youth  
7 advocacy and civic action; and

8 WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year that the first youth  
9 commissioners were seated after voters approved a charter amendment establishing a Youth  
10 Commission in November 1995; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1996, a diverse group of 17 young San Franciscans between the  
12 ages of 12-23 have undertaken their chartered duties of advising the Board of Supervisors  
13 and Mayor on issues impacting youth each year; and

14 WHEREAS, Youth commissioners undertake robust outreach efforts each year in order  
15 to gather community input and to increase the civic impact and knowledge of young San  
16 Franciscans; and

17 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission office, located in room 345 of City Hall, is the only  
18 space dedicated to welcoming youth in City Hall and serves as an inviting place for dozens of  
19 youth-serving community groups and young people visiting City Hall and attending meetings  
20 of the Board of Supervisors each year; and

21 WHEREAS, Youth commissioners work to ensure that City policy reflects the true  
22 needs of young people through budget advocacy to establish, protect, and expand effective  
23 programs and services; monitoring of policies affecting youth; and reviewing new legislative  
24 and policy proposals from the Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and city departments; and

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1           WHEREAS, Youth commissioners fulfill their chartered duties by holding afterschool  
2 hearings and providing official comment on youth-related Board legislation, providing  
3 feedback on 35 pieces of Board legislation during their 2015-16 term alone; and

4           WHEREAS, Youth commissioners work in issue-based committees to research and  
5 prepare an annual set of over a dozen key budget and policy priorities to share with the Board  
6 of Supervisors each spring; and

7           WHEREAS, The commission's recent priorities and successes include advocating for  
8 the establishment of the Free MUNI for youth program; advocating for the expansion of  
9 services and supports for transitional age youth; building a national conversation about the  
10 inclusion of 16-17 year olds in municipal elections; advocating for legal and financial support  
11 for undocumented youth applying for deferred action; clarifying the role of police officers on  
12 school campuses; urging City support for City College of San Francisco; expanding training  
13 for City staff on serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex and  
14 Queer (LGBTQIQ)youth; and improving visiting opportunities for youth with incarcerated  
15 parents; and

16           WHEREAS, For the last 20 years, youth commissioners have given freely of their time  
17 to serve the people of our City and County; and

18           WHEREAS, The experience gained while serving on the Youth Commission has  
19 served to develop the capacities of civic leaders serving as current and past members of the  
20 City College Board of Trustees, vice-chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party, the Mayor  
21 of Berkeley, and staff of multiple city departments and countless community organizations;  
22 now therefore, be it

23           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and commends  
24 the individual leaders who have served as youth commissioners since 1996; and be it

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1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors honors and  
2 commends the San Francisco Youth Commission for its 20-year legacy of fulfilling the charge  
3 bestowed upon it by voters by promoting and engaging the leadership of young San  
4 Franciscans and providing well-informed advice on City policy impacting youth.

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