

1 [San Francisco YouthWorks Budget Reduction]

2 **Resolution Urging the San Francisco Mayor and Board of Supervisors to Restore**
3 **\$2 million to the Agency of Human Rights for the Japanese Community Youth**
4 **Council to Protect Youth Employment and Organization Staffing.**

5 WHEREAS, The Agency of Human Rights’s projected FY 26-27 budget includes
6 cutting \$2 million of \$2.4 million for the San Francisco YouthWorks program, which lies
7 with the Japanese Community Youth Council; and

8 WHEREAS, The significant reduction would eliminate 400 of the currently offered
9 450 internship placements for youth in San Francisco Youth Works (SFYW); and

10 WHEREAS, After the cuts, only 50 youth can have a job placement with San
11 Francisco Youth Works; and

12 WHEREAS, The cuts will also result in staffing cuts to the SFYW program; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco YouthWorks has received over 1000 applications for
14 the Summer of 2026; and

15 WHEREAS, Since the San Francisco YouthWorks establishment in 1997,
16 10,000+ San Francisco youth have attained a career-focused internship in city
17 government across 100+ city departments, commissions, and offices ; and

18 WHEREAS, 90% of San Francisco YouthWorks participants comes from
19 households making \$50,000 or less; and

20 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Works program uniquely serves youth
21 who need to work at internships to fulfill specific requirements for school and high-risk
22 youth in probation; and

1 WHEREAS, Research has shown that youth employment is effective in reducing
2 violent crime arrests by as much as 45% and saving taxpayers money¹; and

3 WHEREAS, \$2 million makes up 83% of the SFYW budget; and

4 WHEREAS, At least 80 supporters, including lots of high school students,
5 attended the SF YouthWorks rally on April 15, 2026 and protested against the budget
6 cuts to Youthworks; and

7 WHEREAS, The impact of SFYW is best reflected not only in these statistics, but
8 in the lived experiences of students and young people who rely on the program; and

9 WHEREAS, Student interns have shared that SFYW has directly supported their
10 financial needs, professional development, and future educational and career goals;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, One intern describes gaining confidence, organization, and
13 leadership through their SFYW placement where they collaborated with preschoolers,
14 elementary students, and teenagers their age to run social media as they managed their
15 own community event; and

16 WHEREAS, Another intern says the program helped them learn professional
17 communication, time management, teamwork, and problem-solving despite feeling
18 nervous about communicating with supervisors, managing responsibilities, and
19 balancing their time at first; and

20 WHEREAS, That intern shared that they felt supported by mentors and an
21 employment counselor, who walked them through processes step-by-step and helped
22 them understand their strengths and areas that they can continue to improve in; and

¹ The path to public safety requires economic opportunity, Brookings Institute, March 2025.

1 WHEREAS, Testimonies from High School City Hall interns emphasize customer
2 service, understanding local government, office skills, and confidence in a professional
3 setting, clearly demonstrating how SFYW gives young people the opportunity to serve
4 their own communities, support residents in times of need, and gain a deeper sense of
5 connection and understanding of local government; and

6 WHEREAS, Participants have further testified that the program’s mentorship,
7 career exposure, and training in areas such as resume building, budgeting, office
8 operations, and public service have expanded their future opportunities; and

9 WHEREAS, Participant testimonies make clear that SFYW is not just a youth
10 employment program, but a critical pathway for San Francisco youth to gain income,
11 mentorship, professional skills, and long-term career opportunity; and now therefore be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board
14 of Supervisors to protect SFYW’s program of youth employment by rejecting the
15 proposed \$2 million cut; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
17 and Board of Supervisors to listen intently to youth voices about the impact of the San
18 Francisco Youth Works Program; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission supports San
20 Francisco Youth Works and the youth of San Francisco; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission directs staff to
22 transmit this resolution to the Mayor, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the
23 Agency of Human Rights, and the Japanese Community Youth Council.