

1 [Supporting Student Journalism and Upholding Free Speech]

2
3 **Resolution supporting student journalism; affirming the importance of free press; and**
4 **upholding free speech.**

5
6 WHEREAS, California adopted several laws, particularly in California Education Code,
7 Section 48907 to protect student journalists at all levels of education in public and private
8 schools and explicitly states that they cannot be censored or penalized; and

9
10 WHEREAS, In October 2024, *The Lowell*, a student publication at Lowell High School,
11 published an article titled "*Invasive and Inappropriate*" about incidents of alleged verbal
12 harassment and inappropriate behavior by teachers; and

13 WHEREAS, As described in The San Francisco Chronicle, the student editors felt
14 intimidated when Lowell High School administrators lectured them in a meeting and requested
15 advance review of future publications; and

16 WHEREAS, Student journalists at Lowell High School say they feel a chilling effect
17 after it was shared that the teacher who advises the student newspaper was assigned to a
18 new role; and

19 WHEREAS, The student body at Lowell High School has been actively engaged on
20 issues regarding verbal harassment, sexual harassment and assault over the years; and

21 WHEREAS, Many San Francisco public high schools have student-run news sites,
22 provides a platform for expression, professional development for budding journalists,
23 engagement on news and topics, and a way to archive records; and

1 WHEREAS, Lincoln High School's student newspaper, *The Lincoln Log*, which
2 publishes stories that question school district policies as an example of how a robust student
3 publication can thrive under the First Amendment; and

4 WHEREAS, Lowell High School and Lincoln High School are the only two public high
5 school newspapers in San Francisco that publishes both a print and online edition; and we
6 must protect them and encourage more schools to have student publications; now, therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 stands in support of student journalists, the right to free speech, and the importance of media
10 in elevating issues and exposing injustice; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages the San Francisco
12 Unified School District to uphold its commitment to students' right to free speech; and to
13 commit to training administrators and educators to ensure that student journalism is being
14 encouraged; and

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
16 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the members of the San Francisco School
17 Board and Superintendent Maria Su.