

[Supporting Student Journalism and Upholding Free Speech]

Resolution supporting student journalism; affirming the importance of free press; and upholding free speech.

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

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

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

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

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

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

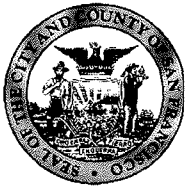
1 WHEREAS, Lincoln High School's student newspaper, *The Lincoln Log*, which
2 publishes stories that question school district policies as an example of how a robust student
3 publication can thrive under the First Amendment; and

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.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250499

Date Passed: May 13, 2025

Resolution supporting student journalism; affirming the importance of free press; and upholding free speech.

May 13, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter,
Sherrill and Walton
Excused: 1 - Mandelman

File No. 250499

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/13/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

05/23/2025

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/23/2025

Date