

[Urging for the Establishment of a Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention Program]

Resolution urging for the establishment of a Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention Program to address the absence of coordinated neighborhood-based prevention infrastructure; build pathways for safety, healing, and opportunity for youth ages 12-24; and reduce violence through sustained, trauma-informed, and community-driven strategies.

WHEREAS, The Tenderloin neighborhood has the highest density of children in San Francisco, with more than 3,500 children and youth residing within its fifty square blocks, yet those young people face daily exposure to unsafe street conditions, drug activity, overdoses, and violence; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, nearly half of all police-reported drug offenses in San Francisco occurred in the Tenderloin, and the neighborhood accounted for 18 percent of the City's overdose deaths - conditions that place children and families at risk of direct harm and chronic trauma; and

WHEREAS, The Tenderloin has one of the highest concentrations of overdose deaths, violent incidents, and trauma exposures in San Francisco, conditions that mirror and exacerbate public health disparities affecting children and youth in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health identifies violence as a public health issue that causes injury, death, and chronic trauma, with effects including toxic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, and long-term physical and mental health harm among youth exposed to community violence; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Health, the Tenderloin consistently records the City's highest rates of emergency medical responses for overdoses and assaults,

underscoring the direct health impacts of chronic exposure to violence and substance use;
and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms that violence is among the leading causes of death for people aged 1-39, and that violence exposure, even without physical injury, has measurable lifelong impacts on health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing violence as a public health crisis enables coordinated, non-carceral, trauma-informed interventions that focus on prevention, healing, and community safety-the same framework that has guided the City's overdose response, yet has not been systematically applied to youth violence in the Tenderloin; and

WHEREAS, Local reporting shows that youth as young as 13 have been observed selling drugs on street corners in the Tenderloin, and at least 57 youth aged 13-17 have been arrested in San Francisco for drug dealing since August 2023, with many of those incidents occurring in or around the Tenderloin; and

WHEREAS, In February 2025, two men were charged in San Francisco Superior Court with using a minor to distribute narcotics in the Tenderloin, underscoring active recruitment of youth into the local drug trade; and

WHEREAS, These incidents demonstrate a worsening pattern of youth exposure to violence, criminal exploitation, and trauma, making now a critical moment for the City to invest in a sustained, neighborhood-specific violence prevention strategy centered on the Tenderloin; and

WHEREAS, Citywide data reflect a broader trend of rising youth victimization, with the number of victims of crime under the age of 18 served by the District Attorney's Victim Services Division increasing substantially in 2023 compared to 2022, including a 29 percent rise among victims aged 12 and younger and a 45 percent rise among victims aged 13 to 17; and

1 WHEREAS, A youth violence prevention program is defined by the Centers for Disease
2 Control and Prevention as a public health approach that addresses the root causes of
3 violence by building individual skills, strengthening relationships, and creating safe and
4 supportive environments for young people; and

5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and
6 Delinquency Prevention identifies effective violence prevention as community-based and non-
7 carceral, grounded in local partnerships that reduce risk factors, promote protective factors,
8 and engage youth and families before violence occurs; and

9 WHEREAS, The California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) grant
10 framework defines these programs as community-driven strategies combining outreach, life-
11 coaching, case management, and employment support to interrupt cycles of violence and
12 retaliation; and

13 WHEREAS, Core components of youth violence prevention include cohort-based
14 mentorship, afterschool and recreational programming, trauma-informed counseling, and
15 workforce development pathways that empower youth to build safe, connected, and
16 economically secure lives; and

17 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin Community Action Plan, developed through years of
18 neighborhood-based outreach, surveys, and youth focus groups, identified Youth Investment
19 as one of seven strategic priorities essential to transforming the Tenderloin into a thriving,
20 equitable neighborhood; and

21 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis confirmed significant gaps in
22 low-barrier programming for disconnected youth, insufficient workforce development and
23 mentorship pathways, a lack of culturally responsive supports for immigrant youth, and limited
24 supports for justice-involved youth, while also emphasizing the need for stronger coordination
25 among City agencies and community organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, Tenderloin youth ages 12 to 24 face a particularly severe service gap:
2 while programs exist for younger children through schools and the Boys & Girls Club, many
3 teens and young adults lose access to structured mentorship, recreation, or employment
4 pathways once they age out of those programs, leaving them increasingly vulnerable to
5 recruitment into the neighborhood's drug trade and cycles of violence; and

6 WHEREAS, No City department currently operates a comprehensive, neighborhood-
7 specific violence prevention program in the Tenderloin comparable to those established in
8 other high-need communities such as Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley, leaving a
9 critical gap in sustained, coordinated prevention and intervention efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, The Wraparound Project at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital,
11 based in the Mission District, has reduced re-injury rates among violently injured patients by
12 half through hospital-based intervention and case management; and

13 WHEREAS, United Playaz, based in the South of Market neighborhood and serving
14 youth across South of Market, Visitacion Valley, Bayview-Hunters Point, and other high-need
15 neighborhoods, has provided mentorship, mediation, and employment pathways for
16 thousands of San Francisco youth, reducing recidivism and building community safety for
17 nearly three decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Mission Graduates, based in the Mission District, provides comprehensive
19 educational and workforce development programs that help low-income and first-generation
20 youth succeed in school, graduate from college, and secure stable career pathways,
21 demonstrating how sustained, community-based investment in young people can reduce risk
22 factors for violence and promote long-term stability and opportunity; and

23 WHEREAS, The School Crisis Support Initiative, coordinated by DCYF, SFUSD, and
24 community partners, operates across schools in neighborhoods including Bayview, Visitacion
25

1 Valley, the Mission, and SoMa to provide immediate intervention and stabilization after
2 incidents of school-based violence; and

3 WHEREAS, The City's Violence Reduction Initiative (VRI), led in partnership with
4 community stakeholders, has been deployed in Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley,
5 demonstrating that coordinated strategies combining outreach, case management, and data-
6 driven prevention can reduce violent incidents when consistently applied; and

7 WHEREAS, District 10 has served as a model for neighborhood-based violence
8 prevention and intervention, developing and implementing a comprehensive District 10 Public
9 Safety Plan beginning in 2020 that engaged residents, youth, community organizations, and
10 City departments to coordinate outreach, workforce development, and prevention efforts -
11 demonstrating how sustained, community-driven strategies can reduce violence and
12 strengthen public safety across neighborhoods; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite the demonstrated success of these violence prevention models,
14 no comparable, structured, and resourced violence prevention infrastructure currently exists in
15 the Tenderloin; and

16 WHEREAS, The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which
17 includes the Division of Violence Prevention, operates with an annual budget of approximately
18 \$761,000,000 while federal expenditures for heart disease prevention, research, and
19 treatment exceed tens of billions of dollars annually, underscoring the systemic
20 underinvestment in addressing violence as a public health epidemic; and

21 WHEREAS, Without deliberate, sustained investment, violence in neighborhoods such
22 as the Tenderloin can grow into an entrenched epidemic - spreading harm, trauma, health
23 inequities, and loss of life - not only among youth but across families and generations; and

24 WHEREAS, Families and youth impacted by violence often need emergency support
25 such as housing stabilization, trauma counseling, or relocation assistance to prevent

1 displacement and re-traumatization, yet no consistent citywide program exists to deliver these
2 supports, let alone in the Tenderloin; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls for the creation of a Tenderloin Youth
4 Violence Prevention Program, anchored in the recommendations of the Tenderloin
5 Community Action Plan and the Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis, with explicit goals of
6 reducing neighborhood-level violence, supporting youth resilience, and restoring community
7 safety; and

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to prioritize
9 sustained funding for the Tenderloin Youth Violence Prevention Program in future budget
10 cycles and to pursue philanthropic and private partnerships to support its creation, expansion,
11 and evaluation, ensuring that violence prevention is treated as an essential and enduring
12 public health investment rather than a short-term initiative, and that the City commits to
13 providing ongoing financial support to maintain program stability and impact over time.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

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

File Number: 251061

Date Passed: October 28, 2025

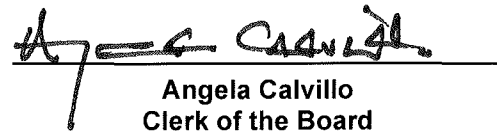
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October 28, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

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

File No. 251061

**I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/28/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.**


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

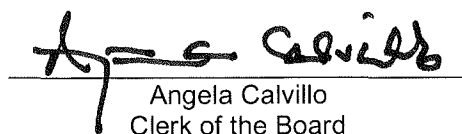
Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

11-07-25

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

11-07-25

Date