

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: August 2, 2021

To: Jeffrey Tumlin, Executive Director, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Vincent C. Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent, SF Unified School District  
Dianna Gonzales, Deputy Chancellor, City College of San Francisco

From:  Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Subject: Supporting Free Muni For All Youth (File No. 210782)

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On July 13, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 345-21, sponsored by Supervisor Myrna Melgar (File No. 210782, Supporting Free Muni For All Youth); enacted on July 23, 2021.

Attached please find a copy of the Resolution for your Department's information and consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Dean Preston, Matt Haney, Ahsha Safai, Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, Rafael Mandelman, Gordon Mar, Connie Chan  
Sophia Kittler, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office  
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director  
Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office  
Kate Breen, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Janet Martinsen, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Joel Ramos, Municipal Transportation Agency  
Viva Mogi, San Francisco Unified School District  
Esther Casco, San Francisco Unified School District  
Mele Lau Smith, San Francisco Unified School District  
Linda Shaw, City College of San Francisco

1 [Supporting Free Muni For All Youth]

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3 **Resolution supporting the budget allocation of \$2,000,000 for “Free Muni For All**  
4 **Youth” for a period of 12 months; urging the Municipal Transportation Agency to**  
5 **implement this program effective August 15, 2021, and to partner with the San**  
6 **Francisco Unified School District and all San Francisco schools on a comprehensive**  
7 **outreach effort.**

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9 WHEREAS, Numerous studies have established a link between exposure to transit at  
10 an early age leads to a continued use in adult years, along with a decrease in auto-ownership;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In support of this goal, the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA)  
13 implemented the “Free Muni For Youth” pilot program in 2013 providing free transit service to  
14 all low and moderate-income youth in San Francisco aged five through 17 years old; and

15 WHEREAS, Almost a decade ago, the San Francisco Youth Commission fought  
16 alongside community partners to win the existing Free Muni for Low-Income Youth program,  
17 which began in 2013 as a pilot; and

18 WHEREAS, In January 2015, this program was later made permanent, followed by the  
19 expansion to 18-year-old students, seniors and people with disabilities, and students enrolled  
20 in special education and English learner programs through age 22; and

21 WHEREAS, There are 39,350 active users of the youth program, representing  
22 approximately 72% of those eligible; and

23 WHEREAS, In order to participate in the current means tested Free Muni for Youth  
24 program, parents submit an application to the MTA, and a clipper card loaded with a Free  
25 Muni pass is mailed to their residence; and

1           WHEREAS, Even though the current Free Muni for Youth program is an improvement  
2 for many low-income youth, the cumbersome application process paired with the requirement  
3 to carry a pass to utilize the free program, and its lack of visibility within its target  
4 demographic, where applications are not widely distributed to SFUSD student who heavily  
5 rely on Muni, has been identified as a barrier to access; and

6           WHEREAS, The MTA approved creating a fare free program for all youth in its initial  
7 fiscal year 2021 budget that was rescinded as part of the suspension of all fare changes  
8 through fiscal year 2021 due to the pandemic; and

9           WHEREAS, The Mayor has allocated \$2,000,000 in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget  
10 for a 12-month pilot program to expand “Free Muni for All Youth” under the age of 19; and

11           WHEREAS, The expansion of this program to all youth would eliminate the application  
12 and proof of payment requirement, removing barriers to the program; now, therefore be it

13           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the allocation of  
14 \$2,000,000 in the city budget to fund this 12-month pilot project; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages the  
16 MTA Director of Transportation to utilize the short-term experimental fare authority, authorized  
17 under their budget to implement this program effective August 15, 2021, in conjunction with  
18 the beginning of the school year; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests the  
20 MTA, in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District, City College of San  
21 Francisco, all San Francisco schools, and youth serving organizations to initiate a  
22 comprehensive outreach campaign to inform San Francisco families of the expansion of this  
23 program; and, be it

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1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors request the  
2 MTA conduct an evaluation and analysis of the impact of this program on transit by youth and  
3 parents and incorporate this program into their long-term budget.

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City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 210782

Date Passed: July 13, 2021

Resolution supporting the budget allocation of \$2,000,000 for "Free Muni For All Youth" for a period of 12 months; urging the Municipal Transportation Agency to implement this program effective August 15, 2021, and to partner with the San Francisco Unified School District and all San Francisco schools on a comprehensive outreach effort.

July 13, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210782

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/13/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
London N. Breed
Mayor

07/23/2021
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 her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

07/23/2021
Date