

1 [Summer Learning Day - June 21, 2011]

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3 **Resolution declaring San Francisco a summer learning city, urging relevant City**
4 **Departments to coordinate and collaborate with youth and educational non-**
5 **governmental organizations and designating June 21, 2011, as Summer Learning Day**
6 **in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, Summer has the potential to be an exciting and engaging time for children
9 and youth to develop new skills and expand their horizons, cultivate their creativity, and
10 develop their intellectual capacities; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a huge disparity between the summer opportunities of low
12 income children and middle and high income children in San Francisco and throughout the
13 country; and,

14 WHEREAS, According to the National Summer Learning Association, the country's
15 leading experts on summer learning, a phenomenon called "summer learning loss" results in
16 a significant loss of academic skills between the end of the school year and the beginning of
17 the next when children do not engage in learning activities during the summer; and,

18 WHEREAS, Research over the last 100 years shows that summer learning loss is
19 much greater for low income children than their peers, and that by 9th grade, the achievement
20 gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer
21 learning opportunities, and as a result low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high
22 school or enter college; and,

23 WHEREAS, Parents consistently cite summer as the most difficult time to ensure that
24 their children have productive things to do; and,

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1 WHEREAS, San Francisco can be a particularly exciting and rewarding place for
2 children to experience new opportunities and learn new skills – because of its wealth of
3 cultural and educational institutions, its wide range of community based organizations and
4 city-run recreation centers, its interesting and diverse neighborhoods, its physical beauty and
5 its outdoor parks and facilities; and,

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco has many exemplary summer programs and strategies in
7 place to make summer a learning opportunity for children, including programs funded by the
8 Department of children, Youth and Families (“DCYF”), expanded summer camp programs
9 through the Recreation and Parks Department, academic enrichment programs run through
10 the San Francisco Unified School District (“SFUSD”) and through community organizations
11 such as Aim High, summer programs at many cultural institutions such as the de Young
12 Museum, and more; and,

13 WHEREAS, Over 75 San Francisco organizations have joined the Summer Learning
14 Network organized by New Day for Learning, and have signed on to a Summer Learning
15 Countdown for children with:

- 16 • 5 days a week of active play,
- 17 • 4 new places to visit,
- 18 • 3 fresh fruits and veggies daily,
- 19 • 2 summer learning projects,
- 20 • 1 quality book-reading session each day, and
- 21 • 0 soda;

22 and that this countdown reflects the Network’s collective aspirations of ensuring that every
23 child have a memorable and rewarding summer; and

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1 WHEREAS, San Francisco is poised to continue to address the summer learning
2 disparity in new and exciting ways and become a national leader as a city committed to
3 erasing the summer learning achievement gap; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby declares itself to be a
5 Summer Learning City; and, in order to enhance its ability to promote summer learning for all
6 its children, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That public and private organizations and relevant city
8 agencies including Recreation and Parks, Public Library, DCYF, Department of the
9 Environment, Department of Public Health, Office of Economic and Workforce Development,
10 Housing Authority, the SFUSD and others are urged to work together, in collaboration with the
11 Summer Learning Network, to plan for a learning-oriented summer using the Summer
12 Learning Countdown as a framework for planning; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That City departments and institutions funded by the city, to
14 the extent fiscally and programmatically possible, contribute resources and expertise to
15 enhance the summer as a learning experience for children by providing free group MUNI
16 passes and free institutional admission to groups of children in summer learning programs,
17 and offering professional staff development opportunities for programs throughout the city for
18 the coming year; and be it.

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That City departments and institutions funded by the city
20 prioritize summer learning opportunities in their programmatic planning for future years
21 thereby institutionalizing programs as envisioned by the Summer Learning Network; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That DCYF, SFUSD and SFkids.org are encouraged to
23 continue their outreach to parents about summertime opportunities for children; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That June 21st is hereby designated as Summer Learning
25 Day in San Francisco and that subsequent Summer Learning Days be designated and

1 celebrated in conjunction with the National Summer Learning Day, and that groups
2 throughout the city be encouraged to participate and introduce children to summer learning
3 opportunities.

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