

1 [MUNI Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program Changes]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to adopt**  
4 **changes to the Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program for qualified low-income**  
5 **youth.**

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7 WHEREAS, A majority of San Francisco's public school students depend on MUNI to  
8 travel between their homes and schools; and

9 WHEREAS, The Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey found that, of the 8,256 San  
10 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school students surveyed, nearly seventy  
11 percent (69.3%) use some form of public transportation to get to school, and over forty  
12 percent (44.2%) of respondents took more than one train or bus to get to school; and

13 WHEREAS, A significant portion of San Francisco's public school students are low-  
14 income. In the 2008-2009 school year, 21,951 students or 39.7% of the student population  
15 qualified for free lunch and 8,059 students or 14.6% of the student population qualified for  
16 reduced lunch; and

17 WHEREAS, Students that qualify for free lunch live in households with incomes at or  
18 below 130% of the poverty line (\$28,665 a year for a family of four); and

19 WHEREAS, The price of the MUNI Youth Fast Pass recently increased 100%, rising  
20 from \$10 per month in May 2009 to \$20 per month in May 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution 100408 on  
22 April 6, 2010 urging the SFMTA to create a Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program for  
23 qualified low-income youth, and that the SFMTA work in conjunction with the San Francisco  
24 Unified School District (SFUSD) to implement the program; and

1 WHEREAS, On April 20, 2010, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved a budget that  
2 funded 12,000 discounted youth passes per month to homeless and low-income youth for  
3 Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 and Fiscal Year 2011-2012, and authorized the SFMTA to provide  
4 these passes to SFUSD to oversee the distribution process; and

5 WHEREAS, SFUSD has faced several challenges to implementing the distribution of  
6 these passes, including making sales of the discounted pass accessible to students across  
7 the city, ensuring that cash payments can be made in a secure manner, and identifying  
8 adequate staffing to administer the program; and

9 WHEREAS, Providing the Youth Lifeline Pass free-of-charge to qualifying youth would  
10 allow SFUSD to distribute the passes just once through existing distribution channels; and

11 WHEREAS, The cost of public transportation continues to be a major concern for  
12 youth in San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, In a survey of 450 San Francisco youth conducted in the Fall of 2010 by  
14 the Youth Commission, 30% of respondents selected "lower cost" as "the one thing you would  
15 improve about MUNI." This selection represented the highest percentage of all options, which  
16 included "Buses and trains that come more frequently," "Buses and trains that come on time,"  
17 "Cleaner buses and trains" and "Safer buses and trains;" and

18 WHEREAS, The number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch increased to  
19 61% or 32,350 students of 53,033 in the 2010-2011 school year; and

20 WHEREAS, The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the unemployment rate in  
21 San Francisco increased from 9.2 percent in May 2009, when the Youth Fast Pass price  
22 increased, to 9.6 in November 2010; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the SFMTA Board of  
24 Directors to support the use of \$1.4 million in previously approved funds for Fiscal Year 2010-  
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1 2011 to provide youth passes free-of-charge each month over the last three months of the  
2 school year to qualified low-income SFUSD students; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk  
4 of the Board to forward this resolution to the SFMTA Board of Directors.