File No. 1(00)4	Committee Item No3
•	Board Item No

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Completed I	oy: <u>Gail Johnson</u> oy:	Date	2/10/11

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[MUNI Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program Changes]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the SFMTA Board of Directors to support the use of \$1.4 million in previously approved funds for Fiscal Year 2010-

2011 to provide youth passes free-of-charge each month over the last three months of the school year to qualified low-income SFUSD students; and, be it

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

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