FILE NO. 240321 RESOLUTION NO.

[The Week of the Young Child in San Francisco - April 6 through April 12, 2024]

Resolution celebrating early care educators and families of young children during "The Week of the Young Child," April 6 through April 12, 2024, in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration during the month of April sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families; and to promote the importance of early care and education as a foundation for the intellectual, emotional, social-emotional, and physical development of young children; and

WHEREAS, Children's brains develop more during the first five years of their life than at any other time; and

WHEREAS, High quality early care and education is dependent on well-supported early care educators who deserve fair wages, health care and paid leave benefits, and professional development resources; and

WHEREAS, Young children need developmentally appropriate, readily available early care and education settings, but access is currently uneven and dependent on the ability to pay parent fees or access subsidies; and

WHEREAS, Working families rely on an expansion of affordable, high-quality early care and education especially given the shortage of child care slots; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a legacy as a champion in supporting children and families and celebrates diversity while recognizing the inequities along race and class lines; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has made great strides in advancing the support system for early childhood education through the Early Care and Education for All Initiative, made possible by the historic passage of Proposition C (also known as “Baby C”) in 2018 that created a dedicated source of local funding to support the wages of early care educators and to expand childcare slots for children ages 0-5; and

WHEREAS, Additional funding is being released to support robust educator professional development pathways; early care and education workplace and service quality enhancements; and facility investments needed to build a comprehensive early care and education system for children from birth to five; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, San Francisco established the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) to center the needs of the city’s youngest children and their families through a two-generational approach in supporting programs that are critical in providing nurturing care and education for their lives now; and striving to achieve universal quality early care and education for all families to best prepare children for Kindergarten and lifetime success; and

WHEREAS, DEC brings together the efforts of many in the early childhood field by ensuring San Francisco’s enduring role supporting and sustaining preventive programs and services across education, health, and family support; and supporting the providers that enrich children’s lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco County of San Francisco declares the week of April 6 through April 12, 2024, “The Week of the Young Child” and encourages celebrations throughout the month of April; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco commits to expanding access and support for families with young children ages 0-5 especially those in historically marginalized communities, such as Black, Indigenous, People of Color, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco extends their utmost appreciation to early care educators at center and home-based programs for their outstanding work on behalf of young children and their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco affirms its support to the children, families, service providers, and the early care and education workforce of San Francisco and commits to visiting sites to see firsthand the positive impact of these programs on families and young children; and to listen to providers about ongoing needs to stabilize and improve programs, access, and workforce development.