

1 [Year of Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness in San Francisco - FY2017-2018]

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3 **Resolution declaring FY2017-2018 as the year of recognizing youth experiencing**
4 **homelessness in the City and County of San Francisco, supporting the plan to end**
5 **youth homelessness, and urging the Department of Public Health and the Department**
6 **of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to allocate resources for homeless youth**
7 **and transitional age youth populations proportional to their representation among the**
8 **homeless population in San Francisco.**

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10 WHEREAS, Unaccompanied children are defined as those individuals under the age of
11 18 who are not part of a family or are unaccompanied by their parent or guardian during the
12 episode of homelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, Among all major cities, San Francisco has the highest percentage of
14 unsheltered unaccompanied children and homeless transitional age youth (TAY) at
15 approximately 1,363 individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, 2% of these youth are unaccompanied children, at 104 individuals; and

17 WHEREAS, TAY comprise the majority of San Francisco's homeless youth population;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, 93% of all of San Francisco's homeless unaccompanied children and 81%
20 of the homeless TAY population are unsheltered; and

21 WHEREAS, Unaccompanied children are more likely to be on the streets without a
22 place to stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco; and

23 WHEREAS, 39% of SF's Homeless TAY Population noted they used emergency
24 shelter services, 21% used shelter day services, and 14% stayed in transitional housing; and

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1 WHEREAS, Unaccompanied children are more likely to be on the streets without a
2 place to stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, Homelessness is the single highest known risk factor for dropping out of
4 school; and

5 WHEREAS, More homeless youth report domestic violence as the cause of their
6 homelessness compared to the adult population; and

7 WHEREAS, 36% of San Francisco’s homeless TAY population report psychiatric or
8 emotional conditions, 23% drug or alcohol abuse, 21% a physical disability, 26% Post-
9 Traumatic Stress Disorder, and 13% are living with HIV or AIDS; and

10 WHEREAS, Currently, San Francisco’s inpatient substance abuse and mental health
11 treatment facilities are not TAY specific, and may not be developmentally appropriate for
12 transitional age youth experiencing homelessness; and

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco missed its 2015 deadline to build
14 400 supportive housing units for TAY, with 188 completed so far, and 92 in various stages of
15 construction and pre-development; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress and the Obama Administration set a federal goal of ending
17 homelessness for youth, children, and families by 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, Ending youth homelessness in San Francisco is a strategic step towards
19 San Francisco’s 10-Year Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness; and

20 WHEREAS, In San Francisco’s 2015 Point-in-Time count, there were nearly 1,600
21 unaccompanied youth, accounting for 21% of all individuals counted, however a large number
22 of youth experiencing homelessness continue to go unaccounted for; and

23 WHEREAS, LGBT youth are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth
24 population, as many as 40% of the nation’s homeless youth population identify LGBT; and

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1 WHEREAS, Young LGBT people have long come to San Francisco seeking safety and
2 community, are an essential part of the fabric of the City, and we as a city should offer them
3 refuge; and

4 WHEREAS, A May 2017 Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood
5 Services Committee hearing brought much needed attention to the issues of youth
6 homelessness and the City's investments in services for youth experiencing homelessness;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, At the hearing the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
9 (DHS) noted that 6% of their budget specifically addresses the needs of homeless youth in
10 FY2016-2017, compared to 76% spend on services for homeless adults; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2017 San Francisco was selected for the HUD Youth Homelessness
12 Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant, and DHS has working with closely with community
13 partners to create a Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness,
14 which includes recommendation on how the grant award should be spent; and

15 WHEREAS, While the YHDP money is a promising opportunity for the City, San
16 Francisco needs to establish a commitment to building on in order to truly address the needs
17 of young adults and the recommendation made in the community plan; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby declares FY2017-2018 the Year
19 Recognizing Youth Experiencing Homelessness in San Francisco, and urges the City to
20 prioritize the needs of homeless youth across every City department; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City to prioritize
22 creating a TAY Navigation Center in accordance with adopted BOS ordinance (File No.
23 160278) and funds committed to Navigation Centers in upcoming two year budget; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges DSHS to allocate funds
2 and services toward addressing the needs of homeless youth and TAY proportional to
3 allocations made on behalf of their adult counterparts; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges departments to report
5 back to the Board of Supervisors on their progress in addressing and ending youth
6 homelessness in San Francisco as we carry on efforts to abolish chronic homelessness.

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