

1 [Appointing Youth to the Library Commission.]

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**Resolution urging the Mayor to stand by his commitment to the youth of San Francisco
by appointing youth to the Library Commission.**

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WHEREAS, Service to youth has been a mainstay of the history of the San Francisco
Public Library; and

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WHEREAS, In the City and County of San Francisco, 30,758 teens between the ages
of 13-19 made use of the public library in 2003 and 2004; and,

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WHEREAS, Libraries report that they expect to serve even more youth in the near
future through reading programs, computer classes, and other various workshops; and,

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WHEREAS, From July 2003 to June 2004, there were a total of 1,238 programs and
monthly events held for teens, and a total of 30,758 teens who attended these programs; and,

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WHEREAS, Nationally, nearly 100 percent of libraries provide book discussions,
storytelling, and summer reading, which are primarily targeted to elementary school youth;
and,

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WHEREAS, Eighty-three percent of presentations by authors, musical or dramatic
performances, and creative writing workshops are also aimed at elementary school youth;
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WHEREAS, Forty-two percent of libraries offer community service and leadership
programs where older students serve as tutors for their peers or have young people working
as volunteers in the library, for which middle school students are the primary targets, followed
by high school students; and,

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Supervisor Chris Daly

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1 WHEREAS, Thirty-three percent of libraries provide computer classes and workshops,
2 which include introduction to the Internet, web page design, or instruction in specific software
3 programs; both elementary and middle school students benefit from these programs; and,

4 WHEREAS, Twenty-three percent of libraries offer homework assistance, special
5 places set aside where young people can work in private, have access to basic reference
6 books, and take advantage of tutoring programs or telephone “hotlines” for answers to
7 questions about their school work; said programs are primarily intended for elementary school
8 students; and,

9 WHEREAS, Nineteen percent of libraries provide career development programs,
10 making information available about careers and organizing career fairs and presentations
11 about various employment opportunities; high school students are the most frequent targets
12 for career development programs; and,

13 WHEREAS, Due to the \$129 million library bond passed in 2000, there are plans to
14 add teen spaces in the overall renovation plans of the public libraries; and,

15 WHEREAS, The public library is one of the few free safe-spaces for the youth in San
16 Francisco; and,

17 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Library currently offers such programs as SAT
18 preparation, teen poetry writing workshops, summer reading programs, Chinatown Teen
19 ‘Zine, a bilingual online teen magazine that offers workshops on computer skills, digital
20 photography, writing, editing and Web-page design; the library also offers many more teen
21 programs that have a positive impact on the lives of youth; and,

22 WHEREAS, Currently many teens feel that most libraries are not in-step with the needs
23 of teens; and,

24 WHEREAS, The best advocate for youth, is youth; and,

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****Supervisor Chris Daly****

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1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission passed resolution 0405-003, which
2 urges the Mayor to appoint a youth to the Library Commission, now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 hereby urges the Mayor to stand by his commitment to the youth of San Francisco by
5 appointing youth to the Library Commission; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
7 Francisco urges the Mayor to appoint a City Librarian that shows a real interest in making the
8 San Francisco Public Library and all of its branches safe-spaces for youth, will be willing to let
9 youth have a say in how they want to see their library function, and provide more services and
10 programs that accommodate the teen population.

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