

1 [World Children’s Day - November 20, 2019 - Affirming San Francisco’s Commitment to the
2 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child]

3 **Resolution declaring November 20, 2019, World Children’s Day in the City and County**
4 **of San Francisco, and affirming the City and County’s commitment to the United**
5 **Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

6
7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has long demonstrated an
8 unwavering commitment to the health, safety, education, and growth of children, youth and
9 their families; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco made national history in 1991 as the first city to create a
11 dedicated Children’s Fund to guarantee resources for children services in every annual
12 budget; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco reauthorized the Children’s Fund in 2014 and further
14 expanded it as the “Children and Youth Fund” to support children and youth ranging from
15 ages 0-25; and

16 WHEREAS, The “Our Children, Our Families” Council was established as part of the
17 reauthorization of the Children and Youth Fund to envision a city that places children at the
18 center of policymaking and strengthens coordination across systems within the City and
19 County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Unified School District; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States, based on its history and tradition of human rights and
21 responsibilities, must demonstrate its dedication to ensuring that all children thrive as valued
22 members of society; and

23 WHEREAS, Every child is entitled to the fundamental necessities of life, including the
24 rights to food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, protection from abuse, neglect, and
25 exploitation, and freedom from discrimination; and

1 WHEREAS, Children in the United States, including in San Francisco, continue to face
2 considerable hardships and it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that all children
3 and their families receive the level of support necessary for the realization of their rights; and

4 WHEREAS, Every child should grow up in a community environment that supports their
5 full and harmonious development; and

6 WHEREAS, Thirty years ago, on November 20, 1989, the United Nations General
7 Assembly unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), on file with
8 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 191158, which is hereby declared to be a
9 part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; an international human rights treaty which sets
10 out the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of children, and which was
11 drafted with the specific purpose of promoting and protecting the well-being of all children,
12 regardless of national boundaries; and

13 WHEREAS, Nations that ratify this Convention are bound to it by international law; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently, 196 countries are party to the CRC, including every member of
15 the United Nations except the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, At least 14 cities and 10 states in the United States have adopted
17 resolutions endorsing the principles of the CRC; and

18 WHEREAS, The CRC bans all discrimination against children, including on the grounds
19 of their birth status; provides children with rights to life, to a name, to social identity, and the
20 care and nurture of both parents; to education, health care, recreation, rest, and play; to
21 freedom of association, expression, thought, conscience, and religion; and to freedom from
22 neglect or negligent treatment, from physical and sexual abuse, from cruel and inhumane
23 treatment, and from compulsory military service; and

24
25

1 WHEREAS, The CRC provides that children have the right to say what they think
2 should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions
3 considered; and

4 WHEREAS, The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) launched the “Child
5 Friendly Cities Initiative” in 1996 to respond to the challenge of realizing the rights of children
6 in an increasingly urbanized and decentralized world by encouraging urban cities worldwide to
7 bring together government, community-serving organizations, and the private sector to design
8 communities that are more livable and child-friendly; and

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco shares the values and affirms the
10 importance of the CRC as a fundamental human rights instrument for guiding the actions of
11 national, state, and local government within the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco condemns the xenophobic actions
13 of the Federal government at the United States border due to its infringement upon the
14 children’s freedom from neglect and negligent treatment, and from cruel and inhumane
15 treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has high aspirations and standards
17 for all of its children and families and is constantly looking for ways to improve their lives,
18 ensuring that all children have access to quality cultural and natural environments in the public
19 realm, and that San Francisco’s built and natural environments are designed to promote their
20 best interests; and

21 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco acknowledges the threat posed by
22 the climate crisis – including its disproportionate impact on low-income families, immigrants,
23 and families of color – and recognizes its responsibility to take immediate action utilizing an
24 intersectional perspective for the sake of the future of our children; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco values the integration of a child
2 rights perspective and the assurance of the participation of children as active agents of
3 change in decisions relating to their community as crucial for achieving inclusive, equitable,
4 and sustainable development; and

5 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to ensuring that each
6 child grows up in a community environment that supports their full and harmonious
7 development and that children’s voices and ideas are included in the planning and
8 development of a resilient city, for it is their future; and

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco’s commitment to maintaining a
10 healthy cultural and natural environment for children is contingent upon its dedication to
11 recognizing the rights of all children of any and all intersecting identities, regardless of race,
12 gender identity or expression, sex, immigration status, nation of origin, disability, or
13 socioeconomic status; and

14 WHEREAS, Commitment to the CRC would provide a single comprehensive
15 framework within which the diverse agencies of the San Francisco government can assess
16 and address, in a consistent manner, the rights and protections of our children; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby declare
19 November 20, 2019, as World Children’s Day in The City and County of San Francisco; and,
20 be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors pledges to resist
22 with fervor any actions on behalf of the Federal government that fail to implement the rights of
23 children as defined by the CRC; and, be it

24
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Congress
2 to ratify the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child and to implement the
3 Convention’s ideals through its treatment of children and their families; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on all
5 agencies, in particular those concerned with the following--economic opportunities, education,
6 mobility and transportation, health care, housing, juvenile justice, nutrition, protection, and
7 recreation for children--to ensure that their policies and programs comply with and advance
8 the mission of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors call on Our
10 Children, Our Families (OCOF) Council to organize a community assessment that engages
11 young people and other key stakeholders in identifying assets, needs, and priorities for
12 change; to support and guide agencies in reviewing their policies and programs to ensure
13 alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and develop a citywide strategic
14 action plan, with coordination among agencies and community organizations, that calls for
15 implementable measures that make San Francisco work better for all children, with a focus on
16 those with greatest need, particularly marginalized black and brown children and youth; with
17 outcomes, such that the City and County of San Francisco may achieve becoming a truly
18 Child Friendly City; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
20 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Directors of all City and County agencies; to the
21 Offices of our State and Federal Representatives; and the San Francisco Board of Education,
22 respectively, upon passage.

23
24
25