

1 [MUNI Youth Lifeline Discount Pass.]

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3 **Resolution requesting the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to create a**
4 **youth lifeline discount Fast Pass for qualified low-income youth.**

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6 WHEREAS, A high proportion of San Francisco's youth population use MUNI to get to school,
7 work, the location of their extracurricular activities, and many other places; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, which polled 8,256 San
9 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school students, nearly seventy percent of
10 respondents (69.3%) use some form of public transportation to get to or from school and over
11 forty percent (44.2%) of these students (who ride public transportation to school)—and thirty
12 percent (30.6%) of overall respondents—must take more than one train or bus to get to
13 school;¹ and

14 WHEREAS, According to section 8A.115 of the City Charter, San Francisco has a Transit
15 First Policy, the second point of which declares, "Public transit [...] is an economically and
16 environmentally sound alternative to transportation by individual automobiles. Within San
17 Francisco, travel by public transit [...] must be an attractive alternative to travel by private
18 automobile;" and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will have raised
20 the cost of the Youth Fast Pass 100% within a 12 month period given that the pass cost \$10
21 per month in May of 2009 and will cost \$20 per month as of May 2010; and,
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25 ¹ Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, page 66,
(<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=17354>).

1 WHEREAS, The current cost of MUNI fares and fast passes are already a financial burden to
2 many youth, especially those in low-income families who are already struggling to make ends
3 meet; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFMTA already recognizes the need to offer reduced fast passes to needy
5 adults in the form of the discounted Lifeline pass, which costs half the price (\$30) of a regular
6 Adult Fast Pass (\$60); and

7 WHEREAS, Qualifying for free lunch² depends on living at 130% of the Federal poverty
8 guidelines, yet qualifying for a MUNI Lifeline depends on living at 200% of the Federal poverty
9 guidelines³, and in 2008 the median family income in San Francisco was \$87,583⁴; and

10 WHEREAS, Of students enrolled in the SFUSD in the 2008-2009 school year, 39.7% (21,951)
11 qualified for free lunch;⁵ and

12 WHEREAS, In November of 2009, the unemployment rate for Americans between 16 and 19
13 years old was over 40%, which is the highest rate of teenage unemployment in the United
14 States since World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, Assuming the 21,951 youth who qualify for free lunches do not currently purchase
16 a Youth fast pass were to purchase to a Youth Lifeline Pass at the rate of \$10 per month, the
17 SFMTA could potentially generate an additional \$2,634,120 in fare revenue; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission passed a resolution on February 1, 2010
19 advocating for the creation of a Youth Lifeline in the interest of protecting low income young
20 people's access to public transportation; now, therefore, be it

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23 ² Federal Register, March 27, 2010, page 13411-13412,
(<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/IEGs09-10.pdf>)

24 ³ San Francisco Department of Human Services, (<http://www.munilifeline.org/index.cfm>).

25 ⁴ American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau,
(http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-geo_id=16000US0667000&-gc_url=&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_-&-lang=en)

⁵ San Francisco Unified School District Summary, (<http://orb.sfusd.edu/profile/prfl-100.htm>).

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby requests the SFMTA
2 institute a Youth Lifeline pass, to be sold at the rate of \$10 per month to those San Francisco
3 youth who qualify for free lunch; and, be it
4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors further requests that the SFMTA work
5 in conjunction with the SFUSD to implement a Youth lifeline pass program.