

[Declaring 2017 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth]

**Resolution declaring 2017 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth, and urging the city to review the methodology used for the annual homeless count to provide a more accurate representation of the city’s homeless population, and urging the Department of Homelessness to include dedicated staff and services to Transitional Aged Youth.**

WHEREAS, Approximately 3,200 homeless children under age nineteen live in San Francisco, a 94% increase over the homeless youth population in 2007, and the highest number of homeless youth in the City since the Great Depression<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, This number is likely even higher as homeless families often shy away from self-reporting to government entities for fear of Child Protective Services interventions and food stamp reductions, and due to shame<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Transitional Aged Youth, defined as youth aged eighteen through twenty-four, comprise the vast majority of San Francisco’s homeless youth population<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Only 20% of homeless youth under age twenty-five surveyed in San Francisco are currently attending schools although 72% stated that they desired to attend school<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Less than half of homeless children in 2012–2013 nationwide met state proficiency requirements in reading, math, and science<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Over 50% of homeless children nationally are held back for one grade, 22% for multiple grades<sup>6</sup>; and

<sup>1</sup> Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco

<sup>2</sup> IBID

<sup>3</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

<sup>4</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Federal Data Collection 2012-2013. America’s Promise Alliance. Don’t Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People Who Leave High School Before Graduation

<sup>6</sup> IBID

1 WHEREAS, Homelessness is the single highest known risk factor for dropping out of school<sup>7</sup>;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, Homeless children have an 83% chance of exposure to a violent event<sup>8</sup>; and

4 WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth experience physical, sexual or emotional  
5 abuse prior to homelessness, and 67% experience these abuses after becoming homeless<sup>9</sup>; and

6 WHEREAS, 75% of San Francisco homeless youth have used illegal substances<sup>10</sup>; and

7 WHEREAS, 33% of San Francisco youth younger than age eighteen have been  
8 involved with the criminal justice system<sup>11</sup>; and

9 WHEREAS, 27% of San Francisco youth traded drugs for a place to stay, compared to 8% of  
10 youth doing so in 2013<sup>12</sup>; and

11 WHEREAS, 20% of San Francisco youth traded sex for a place to stay, compared to 5% in  
12 2013<sup>13</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, One in three youth are approached by a recruiting “pimp” within the first forty-eight  
14 hours of being on the street<sup>14</sup>; and

15 WHEREAS, Children in homeless families nationally are medically ill four times as frequently  
16 as are children with stable living accommodations<sup>15</sup>; and

17 WHEREAS, Homeless youth are much more likely to be on the streets and without a place to  
18 stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco<sup>16</sup>; and

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20 <sup>7</sup> America’s Promise Alliance, 2014, Don’t Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People Who  
Leave High School Before Graduation

21 <sup>8</sup> Buckner, John C. “Impact of Homelessness on Children: An Analytic Review of the Literature.” Characteristics and  
Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Debra J. Rog, C. Scott Holupka, and Lisa C. Patton. Washington, D.C.: U.S.  
Department of Health and Human Services, 2007

22 <sup>9</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

23 <sup>10</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

24 <sup>11</sup> IBID

25 <sup>12</sup> IBID

<sup>13</sup> IBID

<sup>14</sup> Murphy, C. (2013). Homelessness among U.S. Youth. Waltham, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness

<sup>15</sup> Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in  
San Francisco

1 WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth were unsheltered compared to 55% of the  
2 single adult homeless population<sup>17</sup>; and

3 WHEREAS, Only 7% of unaccompanied children under age eighteen in San Francisco were  
4 sheltered<sup>18</sup>; and

5 WHEREAS, 52% of San Francisco homeless youth do not expect to obtain stable housing  
6 within the coming year<sup>19</sup>; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Mayor's Office recently announced formation of a City  
8 Department of Homelessness that would consolidate all homeless services<sup>20</sup>, now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the city to declare 2017 as the  
10 Year of San Francisco Homeless Youth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission strongly urges the City of San Francisco undertake an  
12 accurate count of the City's homeless population, as estimates developed through the San Francisco  
13 2015 Homeless Count, The Five-Year Plan to End Family Homelessness, and The Larkin Street Youth  
14 Survey all substantially vary; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor's new City department of  
16 homelessness include services dedicated to Transitional Aged Youth.

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19 Chair, Luis Avalos-Nunez  
20 Adopted on March 21, 2016  
21 2015-2016 San Francisco Youth Commission

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24 <sup>16</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

<sup>17</sup> IBID

<sup>18</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

<sup>19</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

<sup>20</sup> Fagan, Kevin (2015, December 3). SF Mayor Launching Department on Homelessness. *The SF Chronicle*