

1 [Permanent Supportive Housing Access for LGBTQ+ Youth]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to improve permanent**  
3 **supportive housing access for LGBTQ+ youth.**

4 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness  
5 and insecure housing issues, and

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong history of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights  
7 and has made remarkable progress in safeguarding and uplifting the LGBTQ+  
8 community; and

9 WHEREAS, Ensuring the availability of permanent supportive housing (PSH)  
10 options specifically designed for LGBTQ+ TAY is crucial for their overall well-being,  
11 mental health, and smooth transition into adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, On September 30th, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom  
13 officially declared the State of California a state of refuge for queer people fleeing the  
14 states of Texas, Idaho, Louisiana, and other states; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco is known across the country and the world as a  
16 sanctuary for queer people; and

17 WHEREAS, Many refugees coming to San Francisco have been homeless for a  
18 short period of time, therefore not qualifying for PSH; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco LGBT Center, in order to qualify for  
20 PSH, a homeless individual has to have been living in a supervised publicly or privately  
21 operated shelter designated to provide a temporary living arrangement, or with a  
22 primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or  
23 ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car,

1 park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground for more than  
2 seven days; and

3 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth experience specific needs when experiencing  
4 homelessness and housing insecurity, such as family conflict caused by their sexual  
5 orientation and/or gender identity, unsafe and/or unaffirming supportive housing, lack of  
6 resources dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ youth, and more; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) count from the Department of  
8 Homelessness and Supportive Housing reported that 38% of unaccompanied youth  
9 under the age of 25 in San Francisco are LGBTQ+; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the 2022 PIT count by the Department of  
11 Homelessness and Supportive Housing, people of color, especially Black/African  
12 American/African and Hispanic/Latinx people experience homelessness at a  
13 disproportionate rate compared to their white counterparts; and

14 WHEREAS, A report by Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago in April 2018  
15 reported that LGBTQ+ transitional-aged youth (TAY) are 120% times more likely to  
16 experience homelessness compared to straight, cisgender TAY; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the aforementioned 2018 study, LGBTQ+ homeless  
18 youth have twice the death rate of their non-LGBTQ+ peers; and

19 WHEREAS, A report by the Applied Survey Research firm in January 2022  
20 reported that 38% of homeless people in San Francisco identify as LGBTQ+; and

21 WHEREAS, In order for homeless youth to be eligible for PSH, youth must take  
22 the Adult Primary Assessment, where each question has an assigned score, and the

1 overall score decides whether an unhoused person is prioritized for placement in  
2 permanent housing; and

3 WHEREAS, The range that youth must score to qualify for prioritization is  
4 between 123 points and 160 points on the Adult Primary Assessment, which is the  
5 same range used for adults; and

6 WHEREAS, Many questions on the assessment are targeted towards adults who  
7 have a long history of homelessness; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco LGBT Center, the vast majority of  
9 youth who seek assistance from the center have often been unhoused for less than a  
10 week; and

11 WHEREAS, Young people by definition are less likely to have a history of  
12 homelessness, reducing their need score and limiting access to supportive housing; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to young people being assessed on the same level as adults  
14 while not having extensive experience with homelessness, they often don't qualify for  
15 permanent housing and remain homeless/in shelters or other supportive housing; and

16 WHEREAS, The Adult Primary Assessment also does not take into account  
17 demographic information, including gender identity, sexuality, racial/ethnic identity, etc;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Due to this, the Adult Primary Assessment lacks LGBTQ+ cultural  
20 competency by failing to consider the disproportionate amount of queer people,  
21 especially young people, who are homeless due to being LGBTQ+; and

1           WHEREAS, The Adult Primary Assessment also fails to consider the inequities  
2 that TAY people of color face that leads to a disproportionate amount of homeless youth  
3 of color; and

4           WHEREAS, San Francisco is responsible for establishing a secure and  
5 welcoming environment for all residents, including individuals that belong to the  
6 LGBTQ+ community; and therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and  
8 County of San Francisco to create a housing placement assessment specifically for  
9 transitional-aged youth (ages 18-24 years); and be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the  
11 City and County of San Francisco to change the determining factors on the Adult  
12 Primary Assessment or any assessment later created for transitional-aged youth to shift  
13 focus from tracking individuals extensive history of homelessness to measuring the  
14 recent experiences of those who are assessed; and be it

15          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the  
16 City and County of San Francisco to add demographic-related questions to assist with  
17 determining placement in permanent supportive housing on the current Adult Primary  
18 Assessment regarding gender identity, sexual orientation, racial/ethnic identity; and be it

19          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the  
20 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to include youth input and  
21 feedback, and to do so in collaboration with the Youth Commission during the decision-  
22 making process, as they adjust their assessment(s); and be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission staff is  
2 directed to distribute copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of  
3 Supervisors, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and the  
4 Homelessness Oversight Commission.

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