

1 [Shelter Conditions for LGBTQ+ Transitional Aged Youth]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to improve conditions for**
3 **LGBTQ+ Transitional Aged Youth in temporary shelters and permanent**
4 **supportive housing.**

5 WHEREAS, Harassment and violence against LGBTQ+ people, particularly
6 youth and transgender and gender non-conforming people, in temporary shelters and
7 permanent supportive housing is a consistent problem and barrier to transitional aged
8 youth seeking homelessness services; and

9 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk of
10 experiencing violence, discrimination, and mental health issues; and

11 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are seven times more likely to be a victim of a crime
12 than non-LGBTQ+ youth; and

13 WHEREAS, Staff at youth homeless shelters often lack training and
14 understanding of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences, which leads to misgendering and
15 failures to address the specific needs of LGBTQ+ youth; and

16 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) in San Francisco's
17 temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing are disproportionately affected
18 by inadequate conditions and lack of tailored support; and,

19 WHEREAS, Transgender teens are often assigned to beds according to their sex
20 assigned at birth rather than their gender, maximizing the likelihood of harassment and
21 physical or sexual assault; and

1 WHEREAS, Transgender youth face barriers when trying to obtain housing due
2 to lack of appropriate identification documents, and lack of resources to obtain these
3 documents; and

4 WHEREAS, The prevalence of violence and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+
5 TAY exacerbates mental health issues and contributes to a higher risk of victimization;
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner's
8 Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Transgender TAY
9 encounter significant barriers in obtaining appropriate housing due to difficulties in
10 obtaining identification documents that align with their gender identity, exacerbated by
11 limited resources to address this issue; and,

12 WHEREAS, Further, the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner's
13 Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity states that it is evident
14 that the lack of LGBTQ+ cultural competency among staff at youth homeless shelters
15 contributes to misgendering and an inadequate understanding of the unique needs and
16 experiences of LGBTQ+ TAY; and,

17 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District tallied 2,061 students as
18 experiencing homelessness in the 2021-2022 academic year, self-reported by their
19 families, and in its count, the District included students living in SROs or doubled up
20 with other families, and

21 WHEREAS, Of the 2,090 homeless students in the 2020-2021 academic year,
22 44% were Latino, 24% were Chinese, 14% were Black, and 4.7% were Filipino, and

1 WHEREAS, Of the over 620 immigrant students to arrive in SFUSD in 2022, over
2 80% are asylum seekers looking for a place to live, and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a responsibility to ensure safe and inclusive
4 environments for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or
5 expression; and,

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong history of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights
7 and has made significant strides in protecting and supporting the LGBTQ+ community;
8 and,

9 WHEREAS, It is crucial to address the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ TAY in
10 temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing, as these individuals are
11 particularly vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, and violence; and,

12 WHEREAS, Providing safe and inclusive housing options for LGBTQ+ TAY is
13 essential for their overall well-being, mental health, and successful transition into
14 adulthood; and,

15 WHEREAS, Research by the Homelessness Policy Research Institute has
16 shown that LGBTQ+ TAY who have access to supportive housing and services
17 experience better outcomes, including increased stability, improved mental health, and
18 a higher likelihood of obtaining employment or pursuing education; and,

19 WHEREAS, Research by the Homelessness Policy Research Institute has
20 shown that other cities and communities have successfully implemented policies and
21 programs to improve conditions for LGBTQ+ TAY in shelters and housing, serving as
22 models for San Francisco's efforts; and,

1 WHEREAS, Community organizations, advocacy groups, and LGBTQ+ service
2 providers have expressed concerns about the current state of conditions for LGBTQ+
3 TAY in temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing in San Francisco; and
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and
6 County of San Francisco to improve the culture and conditions of temporary shelters
7 and permanent supportive housing for acceptance and support for LGBTQ+ Transitional
8 Aged Youth; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
10 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to provide mandatory training to
11 staff members to ensure they are well educated on LGBTQ+ youth issues and needs;
12 and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
14 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to incorporate youth input and
15 feedback, and do so in consultation with the Youth Commission, to improve temporary
16 shelter and permanent supportive housing conditions for LGBTQ+ transitional aged
17 youth; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission staff are
19 directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of
20 Supervisors, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and the
21 Homelessness Oversight Commission.