

[Shelter Conditions for LGBTQ+ Transitional Aged Youth]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Community organizations, advocacy groups, and LGBTQ+ service providers have expressed concerns about the current state of conditions for LGBTQ+

TAY in temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing in San Francisco; and therefore be it

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to incorporate youth input and feedback, and do so in consultation with the Youth Commission; and be it

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