

1 [Making TAY a Priority Population]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to continue to acknowledge and**  
3 **prioritize the unmet needs of Transitional Age Youth, and to make Transitional Age Youth a**  
4 **priority population for the City & County of San Francisco through the issuance of a Mayoral**  
5 **Policy Declaration**

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7 WHEREAS, As of 2006, there were 80,000 transitional aged youth (TAY), defined as those  
8 persons between the ages of 16 and 24, living in San Francisco;<sup>1</sup> and

9 WHEREAS, While many of these youth will make a smooth transition into adulthood and obtain  
10 jobs and housing, 5-10% of this population—or between 5,000 and 8,000 young people—will not, and  
11 are at risk of becoming homeless, jobless or involved with the criminal justice system;<sup>2</sup> and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005 the Youth Commission adopted a resolution urging the Mayor to ordain a  
13 Transitional Age Youth Task Force to “address the needs” of TAY, to which then-Mayor Gavin  
14 Newsom positively responded;<sup>3</sup> and

15 WHEREAS, After a year of intensive, collaborative work between City officials, community-  
16 based service providers, and TAY themselves, in October 2007 the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task  
17 Force released its report, *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life*  
18 *Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young Adults*, which contained 16 comprehensive  
19 recommendations for City agencies “to address the problem of the current fragmented policies and  
20 programs, with a comprehensive, integrated approach towards disconnected transitional age youth;”<sup>4</sup>  
21 and

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23 <sup>1</sup> *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most*  
24 *Vulnerable Young Adults* (2007), Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco, page  
25 9, <http://www.heysf.org/download/TYTF%20final%20report.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Youth Commission Resolution 0405—005, “Resolution urging the Mayor to Ordain a Transitional Youth Task  
Force.”

<sup>4</sup> *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco* (2007), page 5.

1 WHEREAS, The Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force report was very specific in defining  
2 those 16-24 year olds who are most at risk of not making a successful transition to adulthood, and who  
3 the City's TAY policies should therefore prioritize—namely, youth who have had contact with public  
4 systems (foster care, juvenile justice, criminal justice, public housing, or special education); who are  
5 academically off-track or have dropped out of high school; youth who are homeless; youth who have a  
6 disability or another special need; or youth who are young, unmarried parents;<sup>5</sup> and

7 WHEREAS, The Transitional Age Youth Initiative—San Francisco, the City initiative that was  
8 created to follow up on the implementation of the 16 policy recommendations contained in the 2007  
9 Mayor's Transitional Youth Task Force report, has further specified that immigrant youth and Lesbian,  
10 Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQQ) youth are also among the most  
11 vulnerable TAY, and thus should also be prioritized by the City along with the TAY described above;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Too many TAY in San Francisco are in crisis; for example, 5,700 youth are  
14 homeless, 6,000 18-24 year-olds lack a high school diploma, 5,000 16-24 year-olds are completely  
15 uninsured, and 7,000 18-24 year-olds neither work nor go to school;<sup>6</sup> and

16 WHEREAS, The City has a strong moral obligation to prioritize helping those TAY described  
17 above, because it is these TAY who are at the greatest risk becoming disconnected from education,  
18 employment, housing and healthcare; and

19 WHEREAS, Several City departments, including the Mayor's Office of Housing, the  
20 Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Office of Economic and Workforce  
21 Development, the Department of Public Health, the Adult Probation Department, the Juvenile  
22 Probation Department and the Human Services Agency have made strong investments in TAY  
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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, page 4.

25 <sup>6</sup> *Progress Report 2011, Transitional Age Youth—San Francisco*, page 2,  
[http://www.heysf.org/download/taysfpublications/TAYSF\\_Progress\\_Report.pdf](http://www.heysf.org/download/taysfpublications/TAYSF_Progress_Report.pdf).

1 following the recommendations outlined in the 2007 Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report, and  
2 the Youth Commission roundly commends these investments; and

3 WHEREAS, By the same token, the City has never implemented the first recommendation of  
4 the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report—namely, the issuance of a Mayoral Policy  
5 Declaration that would “declare that it is City policy to help disconnected youth achieve a successful  
6 transition to adulthood and into the work force;”<sup>7</sup> now, therefore, be it,

7 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor to issue a Mayoral Policy  
8 Declaration prioritizing TAY, as outlined in the 2007 Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force report, so  
9 that all City departments will reprioritize TAY in their work; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges Mayor and Board of Supervisors and all youth-  
11 serving City departments to strengthen their efforts at implementing the sixteen recommendations laid  
12 out in the 2007 Transitional Youth Task Force report.

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<sup>7</sup> *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco (2007)*, page 5.