

1 [Supporting the Community Youth Center’s Bayview Youth Advocates’ Pledge Campaign]

2 **Resolution supporting the Community Youth Center’s Bayview Youth Advocates’ pledge**  
3 **campaign to reduce violence, raise environmental awareness, and improve individual youth in**  
4 **the community.**

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6 WHEREAS, Young people in the Bayview continuously deal with many obstacles, including but  
7 not limited to environmental problems, physical violence, psychological trauma and academic barriers;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Bayview has a great amount of toxicity and litter that negatively affect the city  
10 environmentally and financially and are issues not solely caused by young people; and

11 WHEREAS, While 61% of California jobs require a college credential, only 27% of San  
12 Francisco Unified School district 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are on track to graduate with A-G requirements—  
13 and less than 10% of African-American and Latino students;<sup>1</sup> and

14 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers, and bullying victims  
15 are 2-9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-bullying victims, and 160,000 students stay  
16 home from school for fear of being bullied;<sup>2</sup> and

17 WHEREAS, Mentoring has many positive effects, including decreasing the chances of youth  
18 using illegal drugs and improving academic performance<sup>3</sup>—and improving the mentor’s life, too; and

19 WHEREAS, Violence harms young people in many San Francisco communities, especially in  
20 the Bayview;<sup>4</sup> and

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23 <sup>1</sup> Bridge to Success, <http://sfbridgetosuccess.org/measuring-our-progress/>

24 <sup>2</sup> Bullying Statistics, <http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/bullying-and-suicide.html>; “Bullied to Death in  
America’s Schools,” Jim Dubreuil and Eamon McNiff, ABC 20/20, October 15, 2011,  
<http://abcnews.go.com/2020/TheLaw/school-bullying-epidemic-turning-deadly/story?id=11880841>.

25 <sup>3</sup> *Making a Difference: An Impact Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters*, Joseph P. Tierney and Jean Baldwin  
Grossman with Nancy L. Resch, Public/Private Ventures, 1995.  
[http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/111\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/111_publication.pdf).

1           WHEREAS, Youth leaders of the Community Youth Center’s (CYC) Bayview Youth Advocates  
2 (BYA) have created pledges to address the issues previously mentioned, and these youth have  
3 developed a campaign to promote healthier mentalities in San Francisco and beyond; and

4           WHEREAS, These pledges include:

5           “I pledge to make a difference in the community by starting with myself;”

6           “I pledge to stop littering because I care about my community;”

7           “I pledge to refrain from cursing because I want to stop promoting negativity;”

8           “I pledge to react to violence with logic, compassion and understanding;”

9           “I pledge to treat all people with respect as I want to be respected;”

10          “I pledge to help others to the best of my abilities as others may help me;”

11          “I pledge to do my best in school as it is an investment in my future;”

12          “I pledge to stay open minded and embrace different perspectives;”

13          “I pledge to accept others without judgment or prejudice as they would accept me;”

14          “I pledge to live a life with purpose and meaning;” and

15          WHEREAS, The Youth Commission’s Chartered task is to identify the unmet needs of the  
16 children and youth of San Francisco and to advise the Board of Supervisors and Mayor with policy  
17 recommendations; now, therefore, be it

18          RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission endorses this inspiring pledge campaign created by  
19 those youth leaders from the Community Youth Center’s Bayview Youth Advocates; and be it further

20          RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the  
21 Board of Education to acknowledge and commend the Community Youth Center’s Bayview Youth  
22 Advocates with a certificate of recognition for their contributions to a healthier community and to  
23 acknowledge, endorse and act on this grassroots pledge campaign.

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25 <sup>4</sup> For example, aside from Golden Gate Park, the Bayview has the highest number of homicides per 1,000  
residents of any neighborhood in San Francisco between 2005-2007. The Healthy Development Measurement  
Tool, San Francisco Department of Public Health, <http://thehdm.org/indicators/view/79>

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*Leah LaCroix*

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LEAH LACROIX  
2011-2012 YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR  
ADOPTED BY YOUTH COMMISSION  
JANUARY 9, 2012