

1 [Urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to Urge the San Francisco Juvenile Probation
2 Department Not to Equip SOP Unit Probation Officers with Firearms]
3 **Resolution urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Juvenile**
4 **Probation Department not to equip probation officers in the Serious Offender Unit with**
5 **firearms.**

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7 WHEREAS, At the January 9, 2013 meeting of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation
8 Commission, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer William P. Siffermann announced, subsequent to a
9 presentation by Assistant Chief Allan Nance entitled “Juvenile Probation Officer Field Safety and
10 Monitoring Compliance: The Changing Landscape of Community Corrections and Supervisor of High
11 Risk Offenders,” that he was “examining those existing safety measures provided to Juvenile
12 Probation Officers” who work with the most violent and highest-risk youth, and that he planned to
13 develop a revised protocol for the Juvenile Probation Department’s (JPD) probation officers to be
14 announced sometime in April 2013, and commonly Serious Offender Unit (SOP) with firearms; and

15 WHEREAS, While one of the stated values and beliefs of the JPD is that “data-driven decision-
16 making ensures positive outcomes,”¹ the necessity of equipping juvenile probation officers with
17 firearms has not yet been substantiated by any body of evidence suggesting that arming Probation
18 Officers with firearms will lead to a reduction in violent incidents or an enhancement of public safety;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, One of the main premises behind making the Juvenile Probation Department an
21 entity separate and distinct from other adult law enforcement agencies—an act that distinguishes San
22 Francisco from all other counties in the state of California—was in part to differentiate JPD from an
23 armed approach to juvenile justice and also to provide a more specialized focus on youth's
24 rehabilitative service needs; and

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¹ <http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=2262>

1 WHEREAS, There is a lack of clarity on the need for JPD probation officers to participate in
2 operations that categorically fall under the purview of the City's law enforcement strategies, and the
3 participation of JPD probation officers in such operations expose these officers to unnecessary risks
4 and dangers; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of high risk youth and young adults who are or will be released from
6 state custody due to the state's 2011 Criminal Justice Realignment policy and who will be supervised
7 by JPD probation officers is not expected to total more than six individuals;² and

8 WHEREAS, The Deputy Probation Officers Association (DPOA), a labor organization
9 representing the interests of the Probation Officers whose caseloads include these high risk juveniles,
10 recommended that a "renewed focus on training of officers for these new, more dangerous situations,
11 should be emphasized;"³ now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
13 Supervisors to urge the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and the Juvenile Probation Commission not to
14 propose any proposal that would equip juvenile probation officers with firearms; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Chief Probation Officer and the San
16 Francisco Juvenile Probation Department to identify practical tools and alternative practices other than
17 firearms that will help to address the personal safety concerns for Probation Officers whose caseloads
18 include high-risk juveniles; and be it finally

19 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Chief Probation Officer and the San
20 Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, per the DPOA's recommendation, to provide new training of
21 probation officers who will supervise high-risk juveniles.

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² <http://www.baycitizen.org/crime/story/youth-probation-officers-sf-may-get-guns>

³ <http://sfgov3.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3641>

1 [May include another clause explaining how PO's are accompanied by SFPD gang task force officers
2 who already carry guns]

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