

1 [Urging Support of the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign]

2 **Resolution supporting the Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign and urging the Mayor and the**
 3 **Board of Supervisors to urge the California State legislature to support and establish a**
 4 **homeless bill of rights.**

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 6 WHEREAS, “Homeless” is defined as lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime
 7 residence, or having a primary nighttime residence in a shelter, on the street, in a vehicle, in an
 8 enclosure or structure that is not authorized or fit for human habitation, substandard apartments,
 9 dwellings, doubled up temporarily with friends or families, staying in transitional housing programs,
 10 staying anywhere without tenancy rights, or staying with one or more children of whom they are the
 11 parent or legal guardian in a residential hotel whether or not they have tenancy rights;¹ and

12 WHEREAS, The 2013 San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count & Survey found 7,350
 13 homeless people in San Francisco, 1,902 of who were unaccompanied homeless youth and children
 14 under 25;² and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District serves upward of 2,500 students who
 16 are currently or formerly homeless or transitionally housed³--700 more students than in 2010;⁴ and

17 WHEREAS, These 2,500 homeless SFUSD students compose about 4% of enrollment, and
 18 were living in single-resident occupancy hotels, long-or short-term shelters, or in apartments with one
 19 or more other families, sleeping on couches or floors;⁵ and

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 21 ¹ Western Regional Advocacy Project, *A Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Jan. 2014.
<http://wraphome.org/images/stories/pdf/HBRUpdatedVersionWedDec11.pdf>

22 ² Applied Survey Research (ASR). “2013 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey.” 2013. Web. 3 January
 23 2014. <http://www.sfgov3.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4819> (p 10).

24 ³ Personal communication, Danielle Winford, *Families and Youth In Transition (FYIT) Coordinator* at SFUSD
 25 Office of Pupil Services, on December 27, 2013.

26 ⁴ Tucker, Jill, *SF Schools Struggle with More Homeless Kids*, SF Chronicle, December 4, 2011. Retrieved
 27 January 3, 2014 at: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/S-F-schools-struggle-with-more-homeless-kids-2345204.php#page-1>

28 ⁵ Personal communication, Danielle Winford, *Families and Youth In Transition (FYIT) Coordinator* at SFUSD
 29 Office of Pupil Services, on December 27, 2013.

Commissioner Eric Wu

Co-sponsors: Edelhart, Van Stark, Sicairos, Webb, Li, Bernick, Cardenas, Persky, Kong, Flores, Yu, Joyce Wu, Bae

SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

1 WHEREAS, According to the 2013 San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count & Survey,
2 87% of homeless youth in San Francisco were unsheltered, as compared to 59% of homeless people
3 in general;⁶ and

4 WHEREAS, Of the 169 youth surveyed for the count: 25% have been in foster care, 18% were
5 currently on parole or probation, 51% reported usually sleeping outdoors, 21% have reported
6 exchanging sex or drugs for sleeping arrangements, 31% were in “fair or poor” health, and 27% suffer
7 from depression;⁷ and

8 WHEREAS, We are experiencing a deepening of San Francisco’s affordability crisis and the
9 rise of housing costs, leaving many of the City’s residents and families uncertain about their housing
10 future; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco does not have enough shelter beds or affordable housing to meet
12 residents’ needs and 269 families were on the waiting list for placement in temporary shelter in
13 October 2013;⁸ and

14 WHEREAS, There are many homeless people who sleep in public parks, such as Golden Gate
15 Park, which has an estimated homeless population of between 50-400 homeless individuals who are
16 disproportionately LGBTQ individuals who may not feel safe in shelters due to discrimination;⁹ and

17 WHEREAS, Over the past 25 years, the national trend toward addressing homelessness has
18 favored the increasing use of the criminal justice system and the passage of measures that “target
19 homeless persons by making it illegal to perform life-sustaining activities in public”;¹⁰ and

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21 ⁶ Applied Survey Research (ASR). “2013 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey.” 2013. Web. 3 January
2014. <http://www.sfgov3.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4819> (p 10).

22 ⁷ Ibid. (p 17).

23 ⁸ SF Human Services Agency “Family Waiting List,” Supporting Document for the Shelter Monitoring
Committee’s November 20, 2013 meeting. Retrieved January 6, 2014 at:
<http://www.sfgov3.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=5949>

24 ⁹ October 24, 2013 San Francisco Board of Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight, 130605 Hearing –
Civil Grand Jury Report – “Golden Gate Park’s Homeless Population: Are San Francisco’s Policies Serving Us
Well?” http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=11&clip_id=18645

25 ¹⁰ Bernstein, Nell, and Lisa K. Foster. “Voices from the Streets: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers.”
2008. Web. 3 January 2014. <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf> (p 53).

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SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has enacted multiple ordinances in the last four years that have
 2 criminalized sitting, lying, or sleeping on public sidewalks, in public parks, or in publicly-parked
 3 vehicles, and has enacted such laws despite the fact that public nuisances are addressed by existing
 4 laws; and

5 WHEREAS, An analysis of the application of the Sit/Lie ordinance showed it is not uniformly
 6 applied and that it is primarily homeless people who are ticketed--including homeless youth;¹¹ and

7 WHEREAS, The majority of offenses that homeless people are cited and arrested for are
 8 sleeping, sitting or lying down, and loitering;¹² and

9 WHEREAS, Homeless people do not have the money to pay for tickets and the subsequent
 10 fines, often leading to warrants, jail time, criminal records, and garnishment of wages--which are
 11 impediments to their finding employment and housing, stabilizing their lives, and getting off the
 12 streets;¹³ and

13 WHEREAS, in San Francisco, the cost to jail a homeless person is about \$94.00 per day and
 14 the cost to imprison a homeless person is about \$87.74 per day, and these costs are two to three
 15 times as much as providing supportive housing (\$42.10 per day), or shelter (\$27.54 per day)¹⁴; and

16 WHEREAS, When asked in the 2013 San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey, a staggering
 17 66% of homeless youth reported having been harassed in their recent interactions with the police or
 18 law enforcement¹⁵; and

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21 ¹¹ City Hall Fellows, "Implementation, Enforcement and Impact: San Francisco's Sit/Lie Ordinance One Year
 22 Later; March 2012; Retrieved January 3, 2014 at: <http://wraphome.org/downloads/sitLieCHFReport.pdf>

23 ¹² Western Regional Advocacy Project, *A Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Jan. 2014.
 24 <http://wraphome.org/work/civil-rights-campaign>.

25 ¹³ Bernstein, Nell, and Lisa K. Foster. "Voices from the Streets: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers."
 2008. Web. 3 January 2014. <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf> (p 57).

¹⁴ The Lewin Group. "Cost of Serving Homeless Individuals in Nine Cities." 2004. Web. 3 January 2014.
http://www.lewin.com/~media/Lewin/Site_Sections/Publications/2991.pdf (p 5).

¹⁵ Applied Survey Research (ASR). "2013 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey." 2013. Web. 3 January
 2014. <http://www.sfgov3.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4819> (p 12).

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SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

1 WHEREAS, These interactions with the police and law enforcement serve to underscore that
2 homeless young people are not wanted and that their existence is an affront¹⁶; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to the grueling constant search for a safe place to sit or to sleep, the
4 fear and the reality of an encounter with the police or law enforcement may add to homeless people’s
5 stress and exhaustion; and

6 WHEREAS, Instilling fear and mistrust of law enforcement by criminalizing the homeless
7 population for utilizing public space may prevent them from reporting crimes they are victims of; and

8 WHEREAS, Homeless people deserve for their civil and human rights to be respected, and do
9 not deserve to be criminalized for being in public; and

10 WHEREAS, The Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign seeks to provide a voice for homeless
11 people who are a stigmatized and underrepresented population in local, state, and federal
12 government; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
14 Supervisors to urge the California State legislature to support and establish a homeless bill of rights;
15 and be it finally

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission endorses the stated goals of the
17 California Homeless Bill of Rights campaign, including: The right to move freely, rest, sleep, pray and
18 be protected in public space without discrimination; The right to occupy a legally parked vehicle; The
19 right to share food and eat in public; The right to legal counsel if being prosecuted; and The right to 24-
20 hour access to hygiene facilities.

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25 ¹⁶ Bernstein, Nell, and Lisa K. Foster. "Voices from the Streets: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers."
2008. Web. 3 January 2014. <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-004.pdf> (p 55).

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SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION

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Nicholas Persky
2013-2014 Youth Commission Chair
Adopted by Youth Commission January 6, 2014