

1 [Providing Fee Waivers for Eligible DACA Applicants]

2 **Resolution Urging the Mayor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Office of Civic**
3 **Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to Provide Fee Waivers for Eligible San Francisco**
4 **DACA Applicants**

5 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012 the Obama administration via the Department of Homeland
6 Security announced the implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which
7 began on August 15, 2012¹; and

8 WHEREAS, DACA is a program that allows for the discretionary determination to defer removal
9 action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion in addition to providing potential eligibility
10 for employment authorization for youth under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012²; and

11 WHEREAS, The DACA program offers “deferred action” to undocumented youth who were
12 brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements as indicated on the
13 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website³; and

14 WHEREAS, according to the Public Policy Institute of California, roughly 30,000 of San
15 Francisco’s 809,000 residents are undocumented immigrants⁴, and over 5000 of San Francisco’s
16 undocumented residents are youth ages 14-24⁵; and

17 WHEREAS, Undocumented youth have historically faced barriers in accessing employment,
18 scholarships, loans, state and federal services, and other opportunities; and

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20 ¹ US Department of Homeland Security. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Who Can Be Considered?" US
Department of Homeland Security. Last modified August 15, 2012. Accessed May 12, 2014.

<http://www.dhs.gov/blog/2012/08/15/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-who-can-be-considered>.

21 ² US Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Frequently Asked Questions." US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last
modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. [http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-
childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions](http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions).

22 ³ Ibid

23 ⁴ Begin, Brent. "Illegal immigrants leaving San Francisco for cheaper pastures." San Francisco Examiner. Last modified
July 21, 2011. Accessed April 13, 2014. [http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/illegal-immigrants-leaving-san-francisco-
for-cheaper-pastures/Content?oid=2178492](http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/illegal-immigrants-leaving-san-francisco-for-cheaper-pastures/Content?oid=2178492).

24 ⁵ Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. "SF Summer Jobs Program Will Include Opportunities for Undocumented
Youth." Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth. Last modified May 28, 2013. Accessed April 13, 2014.
25 <http://colemanadvocates.org/blog/sf-summer-jobs-program-will-include-opportunities-for-undocumented-youth/>.

1 WHEREAS, the DACA program has been quite successful in providing employment and
2 financial opportunities; for example, approximately 61% of DACA recipients surveyed have obtained a
3 new job since receiving DACA, over 50% have opened their first bank account, and 38% have
4 obtained their first credit card⁶; and

5 WHEREAS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services charges an application fee of \$465 to
6 apply, including \$380 for the I-765 Form and an additional \$85 in biometric service fees⁷; and

7 WHEREAS, the \$465 fee imposes a significant barrier to eligible applicants; for example,
8 according to Migration Policy Institute's one year DACA mark study, 35% of eligible DACA
9 applicants are under 100% of the Federal Poverty level, with 66% under 199% of the Federal
10 Poverty level⁸; and

11 WHEREAS, of 539,774 DACA eligible youth in California, only 157,182 (29.1%) have applied
12 for the program⁹; and

13 WHEREAS, DACA recipients must also renew their statuses every 2 years, along with
14 repaying the \$465 in application fees¹⁰; and

15 WHEREAS, 60.5% of all DACA applications received from August 2012 to July 2013 were in
16 the months of August, September, October, and November (the first four months of the program) and
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⁶ Gonzales, Roberto G., and Veronica Terriquez. "How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those Who are Now
22 DACAdmented." Immigration Policy Center. Accessed May 12, 2014. [http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented)
[daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented).

23 ⁷ United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "I-765, Application for Employment Authorization." United States
24 Citizenship and Immigration Services. Last modified January 18, 2013. Accessed May 12, 2014. <http://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

25 ⁸ Migration Policy Institute. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the One-Year Mark." Migration Policy Institute.
26 Accessed May 12, 2014. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/DACA2013-FINAL.pdf>.

⁹ Center for American Progress. "Undocumented No More." Center for American Progress. Accessed May 12, 2014.
<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/DACAREportCC-2-1.pdf>.

¹⁰ Ibid

1 will be up for re-application this year¹¹, increasing the need for financial aid at the beginning of the
2 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive cities in the
4 United States, currently second only to New York City¹²; and

5 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Chapter 12H.1 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, the City and
6 County of San Francisco is a City and County of Refuge or Sanctuary City¹³, which prohibits City
7 employees from helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with immigration investigations
8 or arrests unless such help is required by federal or state law or a warrant¹⁴; and

9 WHEREAS, As per Charter SEC. 4.124, the Youth Commission is committed to identifying and
10 proposing solutions to meet the "unmet needs" of the youth population in San Francisco, and reducing
11 financial barriers for undocumented youth applying for DACA is an unmet need; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, that San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and San Francisco Board
13 of Supervisors to provide grants to San Francisco's DACA applicants who face barriers paying any
14 applicable application fee(s) in applying for the DACA program; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and San Francisco
16 Board of Supervisors to work collaboratively with the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs
17 (OCEIA) and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to outreach to DACA-eligible youth both
18 encouraging them to apply and notifying them of potential local application fee waiver(s).
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22 ¹¹ United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." United States Citizenship
and Immigration Services. Accessed May 12, 2014.

23 <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca-13-8-15.pdf>.

24 ¹² Expatistan. "Expatistan's Cost of Living World Map." Expatistan. Accessed May 12, 2014.

<http://www.expatisitan.com/cost-of-living/index>.

25 ¹³ San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter §12H.1

¹⁴ City & County of San Francisco. "Sanctuary Ordinance." City & County of San Francisco. Accessed April 14, 2014.
<http://sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=1067>