

1 [Urging regular review of outcomes of SFPD referrals to CPS]

2 **Resolution urging regular review and analysis of outcomes of San Francisco Police**
3 **Department referrals to Child Protective Services**

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5 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Police Commission passed new domestic violence protocols in
6 Department General Order 6.09 in October 2014; and

7 WHEREAS, the domestic violence protocols were the result of years of collaboration with
8 domestic violence advocates and will strengthen approaches to responding to domestic violence in our
9 City, but the policy left open concerns voiced by domestic violence and youth advocates regarding
10 referrals to Child Protective Services in non-arrest domestic violence cases contained in paragraph G
11 of the general order; and

12 WHEREAS, the police department has a policy in place in DGO 7.04 concerning contacting
13 Family and Children Services in cases of parental arrest wherein a child is left without the care of
14 another parent; and

15 WHEREAS, the terms of paragraph G in DGO 6.09 appear to leave open the possibility that
16 officers would be required to contact FCS in some cases where a child is left in the care of a non-
17 abusing parent, who may themselves be the survivor of abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, the police department's goal of ensuring its officers have resources to connect
19 children potentially exposed to trauma through proximity to domestic violence to support and services
20 is commendable; and

21 WHEREAS, the City invests in our Community Behavioral Health Service system of care in
22 order to meet the needs of youth and families for mental health care and trauma support; and

23 WHEREAS, FCS works diligently to support families and provide referrals to resources in the
24 CBHS system of care, but also maintains a mandate of assessing parental fitness; and
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1 WHEREAS, CPS cases are opened in a mothers' names, even if she is the survivor, and not
2 the perpetrator, of abuse in the household; and

3 WHEREAS, domestic violence advocates have worked with law enforcement and human
4 service systems for decades to develop best practices that generally advocate separating law
5 enforcement responses to domestic violence from child welfare; and

6 WHEREAS, the child welfare system has been characterized by disparities affecting families of
7 color, including disproportionate rates of referrals for investigation, as well as cases resulting in out-of-
8 home placement; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco Family and Children Services conducts extensive training strongly
10 prioritizes maintaining family unity, but the mistrust and stigma about CPS involvement may still persist
11 and the fear of losing custody of their children can impact survivors' decisions about whether to
12 contact law enforcement; and

13 WHEREAS, at the time of the vote on DGO 6.09 in October 2014, members of the police
14 commission indicated the need to review the outcomes for paragraph G six months after
15 implementation; now therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
17 Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department and Human Services Agency Family and
18 Children Services Division to enact clear data-collection and sharing capacities through the
19 establishment of a MOU that includes provisions for collecting data on SFPD referrals to FCS including
20 age, race, ethnicity, language, whether an arrest was made, and outcomes in FCS including services
21 provided, cases accepted for investigation, placement, and family reunification; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
23 Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Commission to conduct regular, periodic six-month
24 reviews of the outcomes of DGO 6.09 paragraph G to assess the policy for disproportionate impacts
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1 on communities of color; and whether the intended outcomes of linking young people to needed
2 trauma services are being met; and be it finally

3 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
4 Supervisors to urge the San Francisco Police Department to recommit to implementing a
5 comprehensive officer training on working effectively with youth, including de-escalation skills.
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