

1 [Declaring 2016 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth]

2 **Resolution declaring 2016 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth, and urging the**
3 **city to review the methodology used for the annual homeless count to provide a more accurate**
4 **representation of the city's homeless population, and urging the Department of Homelessness**
5 **to include dedicated staff and services to Transitional Aged Youth.**

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,200 homeless children under age nineteen live in San Francisco,
7 a 94% increase over the homeless youth population in 2007, and the highest number of homeless
8 youth in the City since the Great Depression¹; and

9 WHEREAS, This number is likely even higher as homeless families often shy away from self-
10 reporting to government entities for fear of Child Protective Services interventions and food stamp
11 reductions, and due to shame²; and

12 WHEREAS, Transitional Aged Youth, defined as youth aged eighteen through twenty-four,
13 comprise the vast majority of San Francisco's homeless youth population³; and

14 WHEREAS, Only 20% of homeless youth under age twenty-five surveyed in San Francisco are
15 currently attending schools although 72% stated that they desired to attend school⁴; and

16 WHEREAS, Less than half of homeless children in 2012–2013 nationwide met state proficiency
17 requirements in reading, math, and science⁵; and

18 WHEREAS, Over 50% of homeless children nationally are held back for one grade, 22% for
19 multiple grades⁶; and

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23 ¹ Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in
San Francisco

24 ² IBID

25 ³ Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

⁴ Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, Federal Data Collection 2012-2013. America's Promise Alliance. Don't Call Them
Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People Who Leave High School Before Graduation

⁶ IBID

1 WHEREAS, Homelessness is the single highest known risk factor for dropping out of school⁷;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Homeless children have an 83% chance of exposure to a violent event⁸; and

4 WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth experience physical, sexual or emotional
5 abuse prior to homelessness, and 67% experience these abuses after becoming homeless⁹; and

6 WHEREAS, 75% of San Francisco homeless youth have used illegal substances¹⁰; and

7 WHEREAS, 33% of San Francisco youth younger than age eighteen have been
8 involved with the criminal justice system¹¹; and

9 WHEREAS, 27% of San Francisco youth traded drugs for a place to stay, compared to 8% of
10 youth doing so in 2013¹²; and

11 WHEREAS, 20% of San Francisco youth traded sex for a place to stay, compared to 5% in
12 2013¹³; and

13 WHEREAS, One in three youth are approached by a recruiting pimp within the first forty-eight
14 hours of being on the street¹⁴; and

15 WHEREAS, Children in homeless families nationally are medically ill four times as frequently
16 as are children with stable living accommodations¹⁵; and

17 WHEREAS, Homeless youth are much more likely to be on the streets and without a place to
18 stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco¹⁶; and

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20 ⁷ America’s Promise Alliance, 2014, Don’t Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People Who
Leave High School Before Graduation

21 ⁸ Buckner, John C. “Impact of Homelessness on Children: An Analytic Review of the Literature.” Characteristics and
Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Debra J. Rog, C. Scott Holupka, and Lisa C. Patton. Washington, D.C.: U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services, 2007

22 ⁹ Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

23 ¹⁰ Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

24 ¹¹ IBID

25 ¹² IBID

¹³ IBID

¹⁴ Murphy, C. (2013). Homelessness among U.S. Youth. Waltham, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness

¹⁵ Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in
San Francisco

1 WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth were unsheltered compared to 55% of the
2 single adult homeless population¹⁷; and

3 WHEREAS, Only 7% of unaccompanied children under age eighteen in San Francisco were
4 sheltered¹⁸; and

5 WHEREAS, 52% of San Francisco homeless youth do not expect to obtain stable housing
6 within the coming year¹⁹; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Mayor’s Office recently announced formation of a City
8 Department of Homelessness that would consolidate all homeless services²⁰, now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the city to declare 2016 as the
10 Year of San Francisco Homeless Youth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission strongly urges the City of San Francisco undertake an
12 accurate count of the City’s homeless population, as estimates developed through the San Francisco
13 2015 Homeless Count, The Five-Year Plan to End Family Homelessness, and The Larkin Street Youth
14 Survey all substantially vary; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor’s new City department of
16 homelessness include services dedicated to Transitional Aged Youth.

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¹⁶ Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

¹⁷ IBID

¹⁸ Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

¹⁹ Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

²⁰ Fagan, Kevin (2015, December 3). SF Mayor Launching Department on Homelessness. *The SF Chronicle*