

1 **[Extending Funding for Free Muni for Youth Program]**

2 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the “Free Muni for Youth
3 Program” (“FMFY”) in 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, the FMFY Program allows youth aged five- through eighteen-years-old, and
5 nineteen- through twenty-two-years-old enrolled in SFUSD Special Education Services and English
6 Learner programs with family incomes below 100% of the Bay Area median income, to ride MUNI for
7 free; and

8 WHEREAS, the goals of the program are to increase transit ridership among youth, improve
9 school attendance, reduce fare-related criminal activities, and eliminate stigma and fear associated
10 with fare evasion; and

11 WHEREAS, the price for a youth fastpass rose from \$10 in May 2009 to \$24 in September
12 2015¹, a 140% increase in six years; and

13 WHEREAS, as of February 13, 2014, 31,262 youth were registered for the FMFY Program,
14 78.2% of the estimated 40,000 eligible youth in San Francisco, and a 13.9% increase from the number
15 of registered participants as of May 2013²; and

16 WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2015, over seventeen million unique rides have been taken by
17 FMFY Program pass holders³; and

18 WHEREAS, Clipper card data indicate that there were 266,025 more Clipper card tags by
19 youth Muni riders in May, 2013 than in May, 2012, an increase of 41.1%. Clipper card tags by youth
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22 ¹ "Monthly Passes." *SFMTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2016. <<https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes/monthly-passes>>.

23 ² City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors: Budget and Legislative Analysis- Policy
24 Analyst Report. Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office. 2014,
25 February.<<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=47980>>

³ Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth.
<<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>>

1 represented 9.2% of all Clipper card tags in May, 2013, compared to 7.1% of all Clipper card tags in
2 May, 2012⁴; and

3 WHEREAS, FMFY successfully reached the goals of increasing youth ridership, and

4 WHEREAS, 45% of FMFY Program riders responding to a survey stated that they plan to ride
5 public transportation regularly as adults, and 70% of respondents would recommend Muni to their
6 friends⁵; and

7 WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Lee stated in February 2014 "Continuing to provide free Muni for
8 thousands of young people from lower-income households will help make our City more affordable for
9 working families"⁶; and

10 WHEREAS, SFUSD Superintendent Richard Carranza stated in February 2014 "Well over half
11 of our 56,000 public school students come from households where their families struggle to make ends
12 meet, so having free access to Muni removes a barrier to their educational opportunities"⁷; and

13 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco funded in 2013 the initial FMFY 18-month
14 pilot program, to which Google in February 2014 donated \$6.8 million to fund continuation of this
15 program which ends in June 2016⁸; and

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21 ⁴ Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth.
<<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>>

22 ⁵ Ibid.

23 ⁶ "Mayor Lee, Supervisors & SFMTA Announce \$6.8 Million Gift from Google to Fund Free Muni for
24 Low Income Youth." *Office of the Mayor*. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web.
<<http://www.sfmayor.org/index.aspx?recordid=527&page=846>>.

24 ⁷ Ibid.

25 ⁸ Youth Commission Budget and Priority 2014-2015.
<<http://sfpl.org/uploads/files/1/26/FINAL%20Youth%20Commission%20Policy%20and%20Budget%20Priorities%2014-15.pdf>>

1 WHEREAS, SFMTA Board Chairman Tom Nolan stated in January 2015 “the [FMFY] program
2 is expected to cost \$4 million in lost revenue per year, but that the city is doing well and can afford it,
3 while many San Franciscans cannot⁹; and

4 WHEREAS, the FMFY Program costs less than 1% of SFMTA’s annual budget, now, therefore
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco/ Mayor,
7 Board of Supervisors, and SFMTA to fully and permanently fund the Free Muni for Youth Program.

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24 ⁹ "SFMTA Votes To Give Free Muni Rides To Disabled, Low-Income Seniors." *CBS San Francisco*.
25 N.p., 20 Jan. 2015. Web. <<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/01/20/sfmta-votes-to-give-free-muni-rides-to-disabled-low-income-seniors/>>.