

1 [Declaring a Year of Youth Experiencing Homelessness]

2 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee to declare a Year of Youth**  
3 **Experiencing Homelessness for San Francisco, and urging the City to review the methodology**  
4 **used for the annual homeless count to continue to generate an accurate representation of the**  
5 **City's homeless youth population**

6 WHEREAS, unaccompanied children are defined as those individuals under the age of 18 who  
7 are not part of a family or are unaccompanied by their parent or guardian during the episode of  
8 homelessness;<sup>1</sup> and

9 WHEREAS, among all major cities, San Francisco has the highest percentage of unsheltered  
10 unaccompanied children and homeless TAY at approximately 1,363 individuals;<sup>2</sup> and

11 WHEREAS, 2% of these youth are unaccompanied children, at 104 individuals;<sup>3</sup> and

12 WHEREAS, TAY comprise the majority of San Francisco's homeless youth population;<sup>4</sup> and

13 WHEREAS, the Bay Area is home to 1,842 unaccompanied immigrant youth ranging 13-24  
14 years old, the second largest settlement of immigrant children in California;<sup>5</sup> and

15 WHEREAS, 93% of all of San Francisco's homeless unaccompanied children and 81% of the  
16 TAY homeless population are unsheltered;<sup>6</sup> and

17 WHEREAS, unaccompanied children are more likely to be on the streets without a place to  
18 stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco;<sup>7</sup> and

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>1</sup> US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress; 2016

23 <sup>2</sup> SF Examiner, "Among Major Cities, SF has highest percentage of unsheltered homeless youth," December 7, 2016. <http://www.sfexaminer.com/among-major-cities-sf-highest-percentage-unsheltered-homeless-youth/>

24 <sup>3</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2017, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

25 <sup>4</sup> IBID

<sup>5</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments. Bay Area Services To Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

<sup>6</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2017, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

<sup>7</sup> Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs

1 WHEREAS, 39% of SF's Homeless TAY Population noted they used emergency shelter  
2 services, 21% used shelter day services, and 14% stayed in transitional housing;<sup>8</sup> and

3 WHEREAS, educational attainment is the single greatest predictor of future employment and  
4 economic success for young people; and

5 WHEREAS, homelessness is the single highest known risk factor for dropping out of school;<sup>9</sup>  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, more homeless youth report domestic violence as the cause of their  
8 homelessness compared to the adult population;<sup>10</sup> and

9 WHEREAS, 36% of San Francisco's homeless TAY population reported psychiatric or  
10 emotional conditions, 23% drug or alcohol abuse, 21% a physical disability, 26% Post-Traumatic  
11 Stress Disorder, and 13% living with HIV or AIDS;<sup>11</sup> and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco's inpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment facilities  
13 may not be developmentally appropriate for transitional age youth experiencing homelessness; and

14 WHEREAS, states spend approximately \$5.7 billion each year to incarcerate youth for non-  
15 violent offenses;<sup>12</sup> and

16 WHEREAS, 29% of San Francisco's youth experiencing homelessness have been involved  
17 with the criminal justice system;<sup>13</sup> and  
18  
19  
20

---

21 <sup>8</sup> Harder and Company Community Research, November 2015, "Providing Stability and Support: An Assessment  
22 of San Francisco's Transitional Aged Youth Housing and Services System"

23 <sup>9</sup> America's Promise Alliance, 2014, "Don't Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young  
24 People Who Leave High School Before Graduation"

25 <sup>10</sup> IBID

<sup>11</sup> Harder and Company Community Research, November 2015, "Providing Stability and Support: An  
Assessment of San Francisco's Transitional Aged Youth Housing and Services System"

<sup>12</sup> Justice Policy Institute, "The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policy Makes Good Fiscal  
Sense," May 2009. [http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/09\\_05\\_rep\\_costsofconfinement\\_jj\\_ps.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/09_05_rep_costsofconfinement_jj_ps.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Applied Survey Research, January 2017, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey

1 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco missed its 2015 deadline to build 400  
2 supportive housing units for TAY, with only 188 completed so far, and 64 in development; and

3 WHEREAS, an average one-bedroom apartment in San Francisco in May 2017 cost \$3,448 a  
4 month; and

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco citizens have voiced that their number one concern in the entire city  
6 is homelessness, the second being housing affordability;<sup>14</sup> and

7 WHEREAS, the homeless youth population is not homogenous and different people have  
8 different needs, but what all homeless youth have in common is the need for shelter, food, water, and  
9 clothing; and

10 WHEREAS, when these common needs are addressed, these youth take the lead and serve  
11 as policy advisors, youth commissioners, community advocates, and graduate from intensive training  
12 programs;<sup>15</sup> and

13 WHEREAS, Congress and the Obama Administration set a federal goal of ending  
14 homelessness for youth, children, and families by 2020<sup>16</sup>; and

15 WHEREAS, ending youth homelessness in San Francisco is a strategic step towards San  
16 Francisco's 10-Year Plan to Abolish Chronic Homelessness; and

17 WHEREAS, unaccompanied homeless youth should be investing their early years into  
18 education, family, and other constructive outlets, not survival; and

21  
22  
23  
24 <sup>14</sup> SF Chronicle: "Homelessness Soars to No. 1 Concern in SF, New Poll Finds," March 16, 2016.  
<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Most-see-SF-moving-in-wrong-direction-poll-finds-6892152.php>

25 <sup>15</sup> Year-Up Not for Profit Organization; <<http://www.yearup.org/>>

<sup>16</sup> The United States Interagency on Homelessness; [http://usich.gov/opening\\_doors/](http://usich.gov/opening_doors/)

1 WHEREAS, no homeless individual is “invisible”, nor are they just a number; they are people  
2 with complex emotions, coming from diverse backgrounds; they are noticed and they are cared for in  
3 this City; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and  
5 Mayor Lee to declare a Year of Youth Experiencing Homelessness in San Francisco; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission strongly urges the City of San Francisco to continue  
7 efforts to count and track the homeless youth population, including making ongoing improvements to  
8 the youth point-in-time count, because current estimates of the number of homeless youth in San  
9 Francisco all substantially vary; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges that a proportional amount of the City’s Budget  
11 put towards the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing be utilized specifically for  
12 addressing the needs of San Francisco’s homeless transitional age youth and unaccompanied  
13 children.  
14  
15

16   
17

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission  
20 Adopted on June 19, 2017  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25