[Motion Supporting youth taking a Stand on Gun Control through organized walkouts on March 14, 2018 and April 20, 2018, and the March for our Lives on March 24, 2018 and urge the Board of Supervisors to continue their commitment to common sense gun reform]

Supplemental Information:

The Stoneman Douglas High School shooting was an event where a man with an assault-style rifle killed 17 people. However, he owned not just one, but ten firearms, all of which were rifles. These were purchased at the age of 18, the legal age to purchase a firearm, whereas citizens need to be 21 to purchase a handgun.

Students were shot five or more times, while their classmates not physically injured suffered psychological damage.

On March 24, 2018, youth are organizing a march from Civic Center Plaza to the Embarcadero. Young people are doing so as a significant sister march with the March for Our Lives in Washington, where around 500,000 students and activists will speak their views on gun control. San Francisco wants to give our youth the same opportunity, and hopes to empower youth to speak up and demand change. This event will unite the youth across our city and show government officials all throughout the nation that we will not stand stagnant to such an important issue as this.

Not only are we fully in support of our young people taking action around the city, we also stand up for students, teachers, and families all across the nation to support safety in schools. The Youth Commission is a partner in the Dignity in Schools Campaign and support their call to not arm our teachers or to militarize our schools, but create learning environments that are able to address the root causes of the issues young people are struggling with. We must de-emphasize school safety measures that rely on policing and security, and shift this particular paradigm. We must prioritize the creation of school environments that center the social, emotional, and mental health needs of young people and their communities.

The San Francisco Youth Commission stands against gun violence which harms young people most, especially youth of color, and we stand for urgent action and solutions, as we have for all of our 21 year history. The Youth Commission supports the rising youth movement calling for change and young leaders exercising their voices. The San Francisco Youth Commission recommits to doing everything possible to stand against gun violence and support youth led organizing efforts for action and solutions and we urge the Board of Supervisors to continue their commitment to common sense gun reform.

Chiara Lind, Chair, 2017-18 Youth Commission
Adopted on March 19, 2018

1 http://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/minimum-age/
2 http://dignityinschools.org/statement-from-dsc-and-aej-on-tragedy-at-stoneman-douglas-high-school/