

1 [Resolution Condemning Use of Federal Funds to Arm Teachers & Urging the Board of
2 Supervisors to Take Action]

3 **Resolution condemning recent action taken by the United States Secretary of**
4 **Education to authorize the use of federal funds to purchase firearms to arm educators,**
5 **urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to support federal legislation to**
6 **prohibit such use of funds, and urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to**
7 **reaffirm that no firearm shall be lawfully permitted within or near any school in the City**
8 **and County of San Francisco.**

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10 WHEREAS, The Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants (hereafter referred
11 to as the “SSAE grants”) are disbursed by the United States Department of Education under
12 the Every Student Succeeds Act, enacted on December 10, 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, In the wake of the mass shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High
14 School in Parkland, Florida (referred to hereafter as the “Parkland Shooting”) and at Santa Fe
15 High School in Santa Fe, Texas, amongst others, the federal executive branch has frequently
16 expressed interest in arming educators with firearms, for the stated goal of improving public
17 safety in schools; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education (hereafter referred to as the
19 “USDOE”) has accordingly, upon the request of the State of Texas and others, explored
20 whether it could authorize disbursement of federal funds as part of the SSAE grant program to
21 states for the purpose of purchasing firearms for educators in schools; and

22 WHEREAS, The USDOE has indicated it believes that arming educators in schools is a
23 means to improve school conditions for student learning, justifying the disbursement of funds
24 by the federal government through the SSAE grant program to purchase firearms for
25 educators in schools under Section 7111 of Title 20 of the United States Code; and

1 WHEREAS, The proposal of the USDOE to allow states to use federal grant funds for
2 the purpose of purchasing firearms for educators in schools indicates a reversal of
3 longstanding federal policy opposing the use of federal funds for exactly such purpose; and

4 WHEREAS, Even since the Parkland Shooting and the expression of interest in arming
5 educators in schools by the federal executive branch, the federal Congress has enacted
6 legislation expressly forbidding the use of federal grant funds for the purpose of purchasing
7 firearms for educators in schools, namely by passing the Student, Teachers, and Officers
8 Preventing School Violence Act 2018, otherwise known as the STOP School Violence Act,
9 enacted on March 23, 2018, which forbids the use of funds disbursed as grants under it from
10 being used for the provision to any person of a firearm or training in the use of a firearm; and

11 WHEREAS, Purchasing firearms for educators in schools does not reasonably qualify
12 as a way to improve school conditions for student learning, as is required for federal funds
13 from the SSAE grant program to be used to purchase firearms for educators in schools; and

14 WHEREAS, Relative to laws in general governing the presence of firearms in schools,
15 the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act, enacted on November 29, 1990, prohibits the
16 possession of a firearm on the grounds of any elementary or secondary school or on non-
17 private property within 1000 feet of such a school; and

18 WHEREAS, Section 626.9 of the California Penal Code reaffirms this provision in state
19 law by similarly prohibiting the possession of a firearm on the grounds of any school providing
20 instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, or on non-private property within 1000
21 feet of such a school; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Chris Murphy has introduced legislation to the federal Congress
23 to prohibit the use of federal funds under the SSAE grant program to purchase firearms for the
24 purpose of arming educators in schools; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission condemns recent announcements by the
2 United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos indicating that she is considering
3 authorizing the use of federal funds under the SSAE grant program to purchase firearms for
4 the purpose of arming educators in schools; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to
6 support federal legislation to prohibit the use of federal funds under the SSAE grant program
7 to purchase firearms for the purpose of arming educators in schools; and, be it

8 FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to
9 reaffirm that no firearm shall be lawfully permitted within or near any school in the City and
10 County of San Francisco.

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Bahlam Vigil, Chair, 2018-19 Youth Commission
Adopted on October 1, 2018

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