

1 [Fare Evasions – Inclusivity and Accessibility – Muni Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass
2 Program]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to adopt**
4 **reforms to the Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program for qualified low-income**
5 **youth, including Transitional Age Youth, in addition related to citations for fare evasion**
6 **by youth.**

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8 WHEREAS, Everyone in San Francisco deserves access to equitable, reliable low cost
9 fare, particularly marginalized low income communities such as Black, Brown, LGBTQ+,
10 people experiencing homelessness; and

11 WHEREAS, Although Free Muni has benefited many people in San Francisco,
12 Transitional Age Youth (TAY), youth aged 18 to 24, are not included in this program; and

13 WHEREAS, Youth, specifically low-income youth of color, deserve the right to be
14 educated on programs they qualify for; and

15 WHEREAS, A City and County of San Francisco survey shows as of 2018 10% of San
16 Francisco residents were considered to be in poverty; and

17 WHEREAS, A City and County of San Francisco survey shows Black or African
18 American residents experiencing poverty at three times the average rate; and

19 WHEREAS, Students living in households with incomes at or below 130% of the
20 poverty line (\$28,665 a year for a family of four) qualify for free lunch; and

21 WHEREAS, A majority of San Francisco’s public school students depend on Muni to
22 travel between their homes and schools; and

23 WHEREAS, A significant portion of San Francisco’s public school students are low-
24 income; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed BOS File No. 100408 on
2 April 6, 2010 urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to create a
3 Youth Lifeline Discount Fast Pass Program, also known as Free Muni for Youth, for qualified
4 low-income youth, and the SFMTA subsequently worked in conjunction with SFUSD to
5 implement the program; and

6 WHEREAS, SFUSD has faced several challenges to implementing the distribution of
7 these passes, including making sales of the discounted pass accessible to students across
8 the city, ensuring that cash payments can be made in a secure manner, and identifying
9 adequate staffing to administer the program; and

10 WHEREAS, The cost of public transportation continues to be a major concern for youth
11 in San Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, The Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey found that, of the 8,256 San
13 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school students surveyed, nearly seventy
14 percent (69.3%) used some form of public transportation to get to school, and over forty
15 percent (44.2%) of respondents took more than one train or bus to get to school; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 2018-2019 school year, 30,426 students or 54.4% of the student
17 population qualified for free or reduced lunch; and

18 WHEREAS, As of September 2019, the SFMTA had approved a total of 155,217
19 applications for the Youth Lifeline Pass; and

20 WHEREAS, However, despite having 62,129 applications approved only 36,000 Muni
21 cards are registered for Free Muni; and

22 WHEREAS, While many youth are employed, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
23 found that the unemployment rate in San Francisco increased from 2.7 percent in July 2019,
24 SFMTA nonetheless increased the fare price from \$2.50 to \$3.00, to 2.9 percent in August
25 2019; and

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Transportation Code Division I Sections 7.2.103 and
2 7.2.104 enact fare evasion and passenger misconduct as separate offenses with no specific
3 guidelines as to what differentiates the two thus leading to discrimination against marginalized
4 youth such as youth of color; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That, as fare evasion is a non-violent act, the Youth Commission urges
6 SFPD officers to stop giving fare evasion citations, with SFPD, along with the Department of
7 Police Accountability, elaborating a revision of policies and procedures to that effect, as SFPD
8 officer time can be better spent elsewhere; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFMTA to provide the
10 Youth Lifeline Pass free-of-charge to qualifying youth to allow SFUSD to distribute the passes
11 just once through existing distribution channels; and

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the SFMTA to make clear
13 guidelines for what qualifies as a passenger ticket, and must hold all SFMTA officers
14 accountable for all citations given, and must inform passenger the reason of ticketing; and, be
15 it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges that citations should solely
17 be given through SFMTA officers as their main concern is transportation and they are the
18 most qualified to do so; and, be it

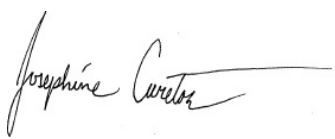
19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the SFMTA to improve
20 their Muni app by creating an online application for the Youth Lifeline Pass available in
21 different languages to improve accessibility; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges that when SFMTA officers
23 encounter a youth fare evader, instead of handing out a ticket, SFMTA officers must give
24 them a flier that includes information about the Free Muni for Youth program; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Education to
2 implement the Free Muni for Youth program for all SFUSD students who qualify for the free or
3 reduced lunch program; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Department of
5 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to work with existing TAY homelessness
6 organizations and TAY specific programs on how to implement applications for free/reduced
7 Muni fare and Clipper in an accessible and equitable manner.

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11 Josephine Cureton, Chair
12 Adopted February 18th, 2020
13 2019 – 2020 San Francisco Youth Commission
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