[Urging the San Francisco Unified School District to end its affiliation with the San Francisco Police Department by disbanding the SFPD/SFUSD Memorandum of Understanding]  

Resolution urging the San Francisco Unified School District to end its affiliation with the San Francisco Police Department by disbanding the SFPD/SFUSD Memorandum of Understanding  

WHEREAS, We hold the humanity and precious life of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Alex Nieto, Mario Woods, Amilcar Lopez Perez, O’Shaine Evans, and all those victims of racist violence; and  

WHEREAS, The system of policing in America, and its systemic targeting of and use of deadly and brutal force against people of color, particularly black people, stems from the long legacy of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, and the War On Drugs in the United States and has been perpetuated by violent and harmful law enforcement practices; and  

WHEREAS, A system that enforces white supremacy, police brutality and the use of excessive force have inflicted intergenerational harm and trauma to families, and are intensifying our nation’s mental and spiritual health crisis; and  

WHEREAS, Our city of San Francisco has a track record of police brutality, environmental racism, and gentrification, among many other injustices towards queer, trans, black, indigenous, people of color; and  

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ community members of color experience not only racism, but also homophobia and/or transphobia from SFPD officers; and  

WHEREAS, The 2018 National Crime Victimization Survey shows that 58% of trans and gender nonconforming people reported mistreatment from the police including verbal harassment, physical or sexual assault, consistent misgendering or being forced to perform sexual acts in exchange for not being arrested; and
WHEREAS, In the same survey, 50% of trans and gender nonconforming people reported feeling uncomfortable interacting with the police; and

WHEREAS, As found in a poll conducted by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School Of Public Health, LGBTQIA+ people of color are more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to say they’ve been discriminated against because they are LGBTQIA+ while interacting with police; and

WHEREAS, The same poll shows that 24% of LGBTQIA+ people of color feel discomfort and/or have faced discrimination when interacting with police, compared to 11% of white LGBTQIA+ people; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission, as the city’s only chartered youth advisory body, are committed to advocating for the rights, needs, and voices of all San Francisco youth; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (‘SFUSD”) serves different communities all over San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, SFUSD defines its core values as to “put students’ needs first” and “stand with those most vulnerable in [their] community;” and

WHEREAS, All students in SFUSD should feel socially, emotionally, and physically comfortable at school, and should not feel targeted based on their racial identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other core-identifier; and

WHEREAS, The current relationship between SFUSD and SFPD does not align with the values SFUSD’s commitment to racial equity; and

WHEREAS, Black men received 39% of all instances of San Francisco Police Department’s (“SFPD”) reported use of force and Black youth comprised 63% of all juvenile arrests, despite the fact that African-American’s only compromise of 3 – 4% of San Francisco’s population; and
WHEREAS, According to a study by the Harvard University School of Sociology, students of color are more likely to be stopped and/or harassed by officers, whether at their school or in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The 2018 – 2019 SFUSD data showed that the count of students arrested, cited or detained has been on the decline in recent years, with 28 incidents reported in the 2018 – 2019 school year compared to 79 in 2016 – 17; and

WHEREAS, The SFUSD’s data showed that Black and Brown students continue to have the highest rates of police interactions; and

WHEREAS, It also referenced two incidents in 2019 in which elementary students were placed in police custody; and

WHEREAS, Having officers present on school campuses and SFUSD having an affiliation with SFPD can make students who come from overpoliced communities feel unsafe or uncomfortable in institutions that are meant to help them learn; and

WHEREAS, The system of policing upheld by the SFPD unjustly targets communities of color and low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, According to a study done by the University of California, Los Angeles, students who feel unsafe at school because of an increased police presence have lower rates of academic success; and

WHEREAS, According to SFUSD, African-American and Latinx students in SFUSD have the lowest rates of graduation, and only 13% of African-American students and 22% of Latinx students are considered proficient or above by grade level in mathematics, while 51% of SFUSD students as a whole are considered proficient or above by grade level in mathematics; and
WHEREAS, School Resources Officers, nationally, set the stage for students of color to be criminalized at school sites, increases arrests and pipelines students into the criminal justice system, as the school to prison pipeline; and
WHEREAS, African-American and Latinx communities in San Francisco have been systemically disinvested in due to war on drugs policies that have increasingly resourced police departments over public schools; and
WHEREAS, The SFUSD-SFPD MOU was created to ensure the safety and wellbeing of SFUSD students; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission condemns all acts of police brutality and excessive use of force especially to youth of color; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco Unified School District to end its affiliation with the San Francisco Police Department by ending the SFUSD/SFPD Memorandum of Understanding; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Police Department budget should be redirected towards SFUSD to fund and increase culturally competent and trauma-informed learning curriculum, mental health services, art programs, and restorative justice programs, to help young people heal and grow.

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Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on June 15, 2020
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission