

1 [Survivors of Sexual Harassment and Assault - Support and Supportive Services]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to support Survivors of Sexual**
3 **Harassment and Assault.**

4
5 WHEREAS, Sexual violence is a social and cultural problem, rather than an individual
6 problem; and

7 WHEREAS, Systemic gender-inequality, toxic masculinity, and power imbalances
8 foster an environment that perpetuates and promotes violence; and

9 WHEREAS, That all institutions have a role, one that supports survivors and their
10 healing and builds a climate of accountability and culture free of sexual violence; and

11 WHEREAS, Recently, sexual harassment and assault allegations have been widely
12 shared by San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) students and other Bay Area
13 students via social media, including an accusation against former Youth Commissioner Drew
14 Min; and

15 WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that
16 prohibits sex discrimination in education, including K-12 schools; and

17 WHEREAS, SFUSD's sexual harassment policy (State Education Code and Board
18 Policy 5166) states that "the Board prohibits sexual harassment of students by other students,
19 employees or other persons, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities;"
20 and

21 WHEREAS, According to Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the
22 nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, someone is sexually assaulted in America
23 every 73 seconds; and

1 WHEREAS, Those aged 12-34 are at the highest risk of rape and sexual assault, as
2 the majority of sexual assault victims are under 30; and

3 WHEREAS, Females aged 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to
4 be victims of rape or sexual assault; and

5 WHEREAS, 21 percent of transgender, genderqueer, and nonconforming (TGQN)
6 college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18 percent of cisgender females
7 and 4 percent of cisgender males; and

8 WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) are disproportionately
9 victims of sexual assault, especially Native Americans, who are twice as likely to experience
10 rape or sexual assault than any other race; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a study conducted by the California Coalition Against Sexual
12 Assault (CCASA), in California, more than 86 percent of women (compared with 81 percent
13 nationally) and 53 percent of men (compared with 43 percent nationally) report having
14 experienced some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Police Department, instances of rape in
16 San Francisco rose 7.31 percent from 2017 to 2018; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 6, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos passed new
18 Title IX regulations, where college institutions must presume that all those accused of sexual
19 misconduct are innocent prior to the investigative process, which protects perpetrators of
20 sexual misconduct; and

21 WHEREAS, According to Inside Higher Ed, these new regulations set higher evidence
22 and cross-examination standards, which can retraumatize and prevent victims from reporting
23 sexual assault; and

24 WHEREAS, According to RAINN, the likelihood that a person suffers suicidal or
25 depressive thoughts increases after sexual violence, as 94 percent of women who are raped,

1 experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) two weeks after the rape, 33
2 percent of women who are raped contemplate suicide, and 13 percent of women who are
3 raped attempt suicide; and

4 WHEREAS, In partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers,
5 RAINN operates a national sexual assault hotline (1-800-656-4673) that provides confidential
6 support from trained staff members, support in finding local health facilities that are trained to
7 care for survivors of sexual assault, and local resources that can assist survivors in the
8 healing and recovery process; and

9 WHEREAS, There are numerous community organizations in San Francisco that offer
10 emotional and legal support for sexual assault survivors, including LYRIC, Asian Pacific
11 Islander (API) Legal Outreach, and San Francisco Women Against Rape, all of which have
12 local programs and resources that support survivors; and

13 WHEREAS, These programs are not actively promoted in schools, so students are not
14 aware of or connected to these organizations and the resources available to them; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed legislation in 2016 to
16 create the Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force, which met monthly from November 2016
17 to November 2017; and

18 WHEREAS, The Task Force met monthly to analyze state and federal laws regarding
19 campus sexual assault, recommend best practices for colleges and universities in San
20 Francisco to reduce sexual assault, and recommend steps that the City can take to reduce
21 sexual assault on college and university campuses; and

22 WHEREAS, The Safer Schools Sexual Assault Task Force Report and
23 Recommendations did not include any specific recommendations for reducing sexual assault
24 on elementary, middle school, and high school campuses; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The Task Force did not invite young people to provide input and feedback
2 on the report and recommendations; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2017, the United States Department of Justice conducted an audit of
4 the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) and produced 272 reform recommendation,
5 none of which addressed the conditions in the department's Special Victims Unit and its
6 treatment of rape survivors; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2013, ABC7 News reported that SFPD had found 753 untested rape kits
8 from 2003 to 2013, despite a law passed four years earlier by the Board of Supervisors
9 mandating that all rape kits be tested; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2004, the Youth Commission and the SFUSD Student Advisory Council
11 (SAC) hosted a community hearing with representatives of community-based organizations
12 and various government agencies to understand the current situation of sexual harassment
13 and assault in San Francisco schools; and

14 WHEREAS, In April 2005, the Youth Commission and SFUSD SAC produced the San
15 Francisco Youth Commission Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment in San Francisco
16 Schools, including information from the hearing, SFUSD student input, and recommendations
17 to City agencies; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission stands with all survivors of sexual
19 harassment and assault and condemns the actions of all perpetrators of sexual harassment
20 and assault; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the District Attorney's office
22 and SFPD to test all rape kits and begin an investigation within 48 hours of receiving them;
23 and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFPD to properly and
25 legally assist survivors in filing a police report, getting medical care, holding the perpetrator

1 accountable, and maintaining a survivor's legal rights in a timely manner, without causing
2 increased trauma; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFPD to have survivors
4 solely interact with experts trained in trauma-informed counseling, such as social workers and
5 domestic violence counselors, unless necessary under law, to ensure survivors do not endure
6 further trauma and gaslighting; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the San Francisco
8 Department of Police Accountability to ensure SFPD supports all survivors of sexual
9 harassment and assault and follows all laws and regulations; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFUSD to follow the
11 recommendations of SFUSD SAC in their Title IX resolution; and, be it

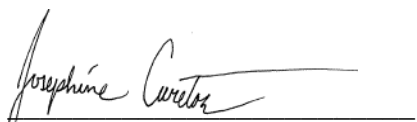
12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges SFUSD to adopt
13 mandatory trainings for youth, educators, and school site staff on the definitions of sexual
14 harassment and assault, reporting procedures, supporting students, and identifying and
15 preventing these crimes; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Education to
17 pass a resolution affirming survivor's rights and access to supportive resources when sexually
18 assaulted or harassed on a SFUSD campus and/or by a SFUSD student or employee.

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Josephine Cureton, Chair
Adopted on July 20, 2020
2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission

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