[Urging the Mayor and the Board to Commend President Obama's Summer Jobs+ Plan]

Resolution urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to officially support and formally commend President Obama's Summer Jobs+ plan and to develop a similar plan for the youth of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, President Obama announced a new plan, Summer Jobs+, to address the critical need for youth employment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This initiative is a public private partnership committed to creating 180,000 jobs and internships for low-income youth ages 16-24 in the summer of 2012 (with the goal of 250,000), and

WHEREAS, The majority of San Francisco’s youth want a job during the summer,¹ and

WHEREAS, 91% of San Francisco’s young people want a job either during the school year, summer, or year-round,² and

WHEREAS, The central feature of this plan is the Summer+ Job Bank, which will have youth employment listings similar to the Veterans Job Bank; and

WHEREAS, Summer jobs have historically been an opportunity for youth to develop crucial job skills, earn money for college, and provide a responsible and rewarding pastime when school is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Only 48.8% of youth this July were employed, the lowest July record since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began this record in 1948;³ and

² Ibid.
WHEREAS, These July employment figures have dropped significantly from 59.2% five years ago and 63.3% ten years ago; and

WHEREAS, Youth summer unemployment disproportionately affects minority youth, with just 34.6% of African American and 42.9% of Hispanic youth working this July; and

WHEREAS, All things being equal, a year spent unemployed under the age of 23 will reduce a young man’s earnings even 10 years later by 23%, and a young woman’s by 16%;4 and

WHEREAS, Some research has pointed to unemployed youth being more likely to use drugs or commit property crimes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to officially support and formally commend President Obama’s Summer Jobs+ plan and to develop a similar plan calling on businesses to commit to hiring, mentoring, or training San Francisco youth—particularly in the Transitional Aged Youth population of 16-24 year-olds with barriers to employment—so as to spark a strong work ethic in San Francisco’s young people, while setting up the city and county for a successful future.

LEAH LACROIX
2011-2012 YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR

ADOPTED BY YOUTH COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2012