

1 [Free Youth Transportation]

2 **Calling on the City & County of San Francisco to continue agreeing on a plan to implement free**
 3 **MUNI for all of the San Francisco’s young people.**

4
 5 WHEREAS, A high proportion of San Francisco’s youth population use MUNI to get to school,
 6 work, the location of their extracurricular activities, and many other places; and

7 WHEREAS, To wit, according to the Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, which polled 8,256
 8 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) high school students, nearly seventy percent of
 9 respondents (69.3%) use some form of public transportation to get to school and over forty percent
 10 (44.2%) of these students (who ride public transportation to school)—and thirty percent (30.6%) of
 11 overall respondents—must take more than one train or bus to get to school;¹ and

12 WHEREAS, According to SEC. 8A.115 of the City Charter, San Francisco has a Transit First
 13 Policy, the second point of which declares, “Public transit [...] is an economically and environmentally
 14 sound alternative to transportation by individual automobiles. Within San Francisco, travel by public
 15 transit, by bicycle and on foot must be an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile;” and

16 WHEREAS, As documented in resolutions adopted by the Youth Commission on February 1,
 17 2010, and January 3, 2011, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has
 18 dramatically increased the cost of the Youth Fast Pass in the last three years, from \$10 in May 2009 to
 19 \$15 in December 2009, \$20 in May 2010, and \$21 in July ²; and

20 WHEREAS, The current cost of MUNI fares and fast passes are a financial burden to many
 21 young people and their families, especially those already struggling to make ends meet, and such
 22 drastic fare increases only exacerbate the financial challenges these families face; and

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 24 ¹ Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, page 66, Edited by Peter Lauterborn, San Francisco Youth Commission
 (http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=17354).

25 ² San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution 0910—AL08 “Youth Lifeline Pass and Fare Increases,” adopted
 February 1, 2010; San Francisco Youth Commission Resolution No. 1011—AL04 “Youth Lifeline Follow Up,”
 adopted January 3, 2011.

1 WHEREAS, There are many low-income young people in San Francisco; for example, of the
2 53,033 students enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), 61% qualify for free or
3 reduced lunch;³ and

4 WHEREAS, The SFUSD has radically slashed its school bus service, cutting over half of its
5 yellow bus service from school year 2010-2011 to school year 2011-2012;⁴ and

6 WHEREAS, Along with the Youth Commission, various youth service providers, the Board of
7 Supervisors (in resolutions 141-10, adopted on April 6, 2010⁵ and 83-11, adopted on February 15,
8 2011⁶) and the Board of Education (in resolution 104-13A2, adopted on April 13, 2011⁷) have all
9 acknowledged the fact that the cost of public transportation is a major concern for San Francisco's
10 youth population, and have convened a working group to develop policy that would address the unmet
11 needs of affordable transportation for San Francisco youth; and

12 WHEREAS, The SFMTA has signaled a general openness to working with the above-
13 mentioned working group on the issue of free MUNI, and has recently responded to the issue of the
14 affordability of youth fares in its FYs 10-11 and 11-12 Operating Budget, adopted on April 20, 2010⁸
15 (which budgeted for the creation of a Youth Lifeline fast pass) and a resolution adopted on March 1,
16 2011⁹ (which allowed for changes in the Youth Lifeline program during the final 3 months of the 2010-
17 2011 fiscal year)—both of which actions, to be sure, constituted a pilot program on the part of the
18 Agency; and

19 ³ "Facts at a Glance/April 2011," SFUSD website, accessed August 23, 2011, [http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/about-SFUSD/files/SFUSD%20Facts%20at%20a%20Glance%20\(April%202011\).pdf](http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/about-SFUSD/files/SFUSD%20Facts%20at%20a%20Glance%20(April%202011).pdf).

20 ⁴ *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 15, 2010, "San Francisco Votes to Slash School Busing," by Jill Tucker,
21 http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/cityinsider/detail?entry_id=79025

22 ⁵ Board of Supervisors file no 100408, accessed on August 23, 2011,
23 <http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/resolutions10/r0141-10.pdf>.

24 ⁶ Board of Supervisors file no. 110074, accessed on August 23, 2011,
25 <http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/resolutions11/r0083-11.pdf>.

⁷ Board of Education file no. 104-13A2, accessed on August 23, 2011, [http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/board-archive/minutes/April%2013%202010%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/board-archive/minutes/April%2013%202010%20(2).pdf)

⁸ SFMTA FYs 10-11 and 11-12 Operating Budget, accessed on August 23, 2011

<http://www.sfmta.com/cms/cmta/documents/4-20-10Item11FY2011-2012OperatingBudgetnon-redline.pdf>

⁹ SFMTA resolution, accessed on August 23, 2011, <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/cmta/documents/3-1-11Item12YouthPass.pdf>.

1 WHEREAS, Making MUNI free for all of San Francisco’s young people is the proposed idea
2 which has come out of this working group; and

3 WHEREAS, Even though, historically, the Youth Commission has advocated for the Youth
4 Lifeline pass program, the Youth Lifeline has faced a great many administrative challenges, which has
5 made it effectively not possible to implement to date; and


6 WHEREAS, Making MUNI free for all of San Francisco’s young people eliminates most of the
7 administrative challenges that hampered the successful implementation of the Youth Lifeline; and

8 WHEREAS, The benefits of making MUNI free for all of San Francisco’s young people include
9 providing all young people with access to the diversity of cultural treasures that our city has to offer;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, As per Charter SEC. 4.124, the Youth Commission is committed to identifying and
12 proposing solutions to meet the “unmet needs” of the youth population in San Francisco, and access
13 to affordable public transportation is an unmet need; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports the proposed policy of Free
15 MUNI for all San Francisco youth; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission strongly urges the Mayor, the San Francisco Board
17 of Supervisors, the Board of Education, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to
18 continue to work together to support, approve, and implement free MUNI for all of San Francisco’s
19 young people.

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23 LEAH LACROIX
24 2011-2012 YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR

25 ADOPTED BY YOUTH COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 19, 2011