Urging the SFUSD and City & County to Assist Undocumented Students File for Deferred Action

Urging the SFUSD to create a centralized process and facilitating the application process for students that are eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and urging the Board of Supervisors and Mayor to work together with the SFUSD to support our undocumented students and transitionally aged youth.

WHEREAS, On June 15, 2012, the Obama administration via the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), announced the implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which began on August 15, 2012;¹ and

WHEREAS, DACA is a program that allows for the discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion in addition to providing potential eligibility for employment authorization for youth under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;² and

WHEREAS, The DACA program offers "deferred action" to undocumented youth who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements as indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website;³ and

WHEREAS, According to the Immigration Policy Center, roughly 936,930 immigrants between the ages of 15 and 30 might immediately meet the requirements of the deferred action initiative, with


California leading with 412,560 potentially qualified youth and adults, followed by Texas (226,700), Florida (85,750), New York (70,170), and Illinois (67,460); and

WHEREAS, On August 28, 2012, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) expressed support for DACA based on Resolution No. 128-28A3 titled In Support of the “Consideration of Deferred Deportation for Childhood Arrivals” Program and Encouraging SFUSD to Volunteer to Assist Our Students at the Mission High School’s Deferred Action Forum; and

WHEREAS, To apply for DACA, there are multiple lengthy forms that are necessary to fill out, which require a summation of $465 in application fees; and

WHEREAS, The necessary requirements of the DACA application include providing proof of: enrollment in school, graduation from high school or have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, entrance to the country prior to 16 years of age, residency in the country for continuous 5 years prior to June 15, 2012, and present in the country on June 15, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Requesting an official school transcript is necessary to prove a person’s educational history and current residency in the country; and

WHEREAS, Due to the arduous application process, many undocumented youth and families seek resources and legal counsel for assistance; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement and legal officials have sent out warnings against so-called “notarios” are operating in Spanish-speaking communities hiding under the guise of travel

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agencies, translation services and other businesses are offering to help undocumented immigrants navigate the process of applying for relief under the Obama program, but can charge hefty fees for services that are unnecessary or that they are not legally authorized to provide;\textsuperscript{8} and

WHEREAS, On September 17\textsuperscript{th}, The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) implemented a centralized process to help provide verification to current and former students who are applying for DACA;\textsuperscript{9} and

WHEREAS, The LAUSD Students Record Center has created a webpage dedicated to DACA, in which it explicitly states that there is no cost to obtain documentation such as transcripts, which are necessary to apply for the program;\textsuperscript{10} and

WHEREAS, The LAUSD has already helped thousands of DACA eligible students apply for deferred action through this effective, streamlined process for requesting official transcripts; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Chapter 12H.1 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, the City and County of San Francisco is a City and County of Refuge,\textsuperscript{11} which prohibits City employees from helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with immigration investigations or arrests unless such help is required by federal or state law or a warrant;\textsuperscript{12} and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) and the Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families (DCYF) adopted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Fall 2012 agreeing to work collaboratively to inform and assist the city’s potential applicants for DACA; and


\textsuperscript{11} San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter §12H.1

WHEREAS, This aforementioned MOU established a grants program to fund community-based organization providing legal services, cultural and linguistically competent application assistance, outreach and education, and other services to eligible applicants for DACA; and

WHEREAS, The SFUSD transcript office currently charges a fee of $5.00 for adults attempting to acquire official transcripts, and there are no application instructions or service referrals on the official SFUSD website for youth and adults, who are former SFUSD students, interested in applying for the DACA program;¹³ and

WHEREAS, Undocumented youth have historically faced barriers in accessing employment, scholarships, loans, state and federal services, and other opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring that the city’s potential eligible youth for deferred action are informed and have access to relevant information on applications, processes, resources and legal assistance during the DACA application process is a worthwhile goal; and

WHEREAS, As per Charter SEC. 4.124, the Youth Commission is committed to identifying and proposing solutions to meet the “unmet needs” of the youth population in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is committed to providing a voice for students of the SFUSD; and

WHEREAS, Members of the San Francisco Youth Commission and the Student Advisory Council have been working together on writing this resolution in an ad-hoc working group and plan to adopt similar resolutions to help support DACA eligible students; and

WHEREAS, Members of this working group have been in contact with staff at OCEIA and the Special Assistant to the Superintendent at the SFUSD to begin the conversation on building a webpage on the SFUSD website that would support DACA eligible students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the SFUSD to support the OCEIA in publicizing and connecting eligible SFUSD students with the OCEIA and DCYF grant funded legal services and application assistance services for DACA; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the SFUSD to create a centralized process such as that of the LAUSD to streamline the process for San Francisco youth and adults applying for the DACA program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the SFUSD to uphold the confidentiality of DACA applicants information; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Transcript Office of the SFUSD to waive all fees associated with obtaining documentation for DACA in light of the $465 in application fees, and also to explicitly provide said information on its website; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to work together with the SFUSD to do whatever possible to support our undocumented students and transitionally aged youth.

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Mia Shackelford, Chair
2012-2013 Youth Commission Chair

Adopted by Youth Commission February 19, 2013