

1 [Support the Creation of Youth Government Advisory Bodies]

2 **Urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to Support the Creation of Youth**
3 **Government Advisory Bodies at both the Regional and Federal Levels.**

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5 WHEREAS, Young people provide a unique perspective that can make all levels of
6 government more efficient and effective in addressing the needs of other youth and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Young people have a large stake in shaping the next decade of reforms to
8 education, immigration, sustainability, and access to public services among other defining issues of
9 our time; and

10 WHEREAS, Based on a study from the Harvard Institute of Politics, only 29% of young people
11 between the ages of 18-29 believe that they have a say in what our government does, and only 20%
12 think that the country is headed in the right direction;¹ and

13 WHEREAS, Although young people under the age of 18 comprise 24% of the United States of
14 population, youth remain underrepresented in the policy-making process especially at the regional and
15 federal levels;² and

16 WHEREAS, The White House Council on Community Solutions, established by Executive
17 Order in December 2010 to convene the best resources of the public, private, non-profit and
18 philanthropic sectors in communities across the country and identify key attributes of solutions from
19 institutions working together on community problems, released a report in July 2012 recommending
20 that the federal government formally incorporate the input of young people in its decision-making by
21 creating a Presidential youth working group;³ and

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23 ¹ Spring 2012 Survey." *The Institute of Politics at Harvard University* |. Harvard Institute of Politics, 21 Apr. 2012.
Web. 08 July 2013. <<http://www.iop.harvard.edu/spring-2012-survey>>.

24 ² USA QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau." *USA QuickFacts from the US Census Bureau*. United States
Census Bureau, n.d. Web. 08 July 2013. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>>.

25 ³ "Final Report Community Solutions for Opportunity Youth June 2012" *The White House Council for Community
Solutions* < http://www.serve.gov/new-images/council/pdf/12_0604whccs_finalreport.pdf>.

1 WHEREAS, There is an ongoing national campaign to establish a bi-partisan Presidential
2 Youth Council made up of 24 young Americans between 16 and 24 years old. This proposed
3 Presidential Youth Council would advise the President, his/her cabinet secretaries, and Congress on
4 the perspectives of young people and the development of youth policies;⁴ and

5 WHEREAS, The model for a Presidential Youth Council is a proven approach for engaging
6 young people as there are approximately 400 active youth councils advising Mayors and Governors in
7 state and local governments across the United States; ⁵ and

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission has been cited as an example for the
9 Presidential Youth Council for youth voice in government, more specifically in our around expanding
10 youth access to public transportation with the implementation of the Free MUNI for Youth Pilot
11 Program;⁶ and

12 WHEREAS, As with the federal government, at the regional level there are no formal
13 mechanisms to represent the interests of young people on policy matters that affect the nine Bay Area
14 counties; and

15 WHEREAS, Existing regional policy and decision-making bodies, such as the Metropolitan
16 Transportation Commission, provide the unique ability to address issues that transcend cities and
17 counties such as public health, regional transit, coastal preservation, etc; and

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21 ⁴ Campaign for a Presidential Youth Council <
http://presidentialyouthcouncil.org/Presidential_Youth_Council/Our_Policy_Proposal.html>.

22 ⁵ Martin, Shanetta, Karen Pittman, Thaddeus Ferber, and Ada McMahon. *Building Effective Youth Councils*. July
23 2007 Publication. N.p.: Forum for Youth Investment in collaboration with The National League of Cities' Institute
24 for Youth, Education, and Families, and the National Conference of State Legislatures as part of the Youth
25 Engagement Series for Municipal and State Leaders, n.d. Online
<<http://www.nlc.org/Documents/Find%20City%20Solutions/IYEF/Youth%20Civic%20Engagement/building-effective-youth-councils-fyi-gid-jul07.pdf>>.

⁶ Smith, Kaukab J. "Support for Federal Youth Advisory Council." *Youth Today Latest News*. Youth Today, 14
Dec. 2012. Web. 08 July 2013. <http://www.youthtoday.org/view_article.cfm?article_id=5738>.

1 WHEREAS, The local Free MUNI for Youth campaign was successful because of the
2 significant coordination and partnership between youth commission bodies throughout the Bay Area;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Formalizing the partnership of Bay Area Youth Commissions through the
5 establishment of a Bay Area Youth Commission would enable youth to expand the scale of our policy
6 work, share strategies and best practices, and have a unified voice and impact on regional policy
7 issues affecting other youth; and

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission has previously supported the efforts of
9 other localities around the country to better engage their youth in government. For example, on May
10 20th, 2013 the full commission approved a memorandum of support of a campaign in New York State
11 to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to serve on neighborhood councils; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission formally endorse the campaign to
13 establish a Presidential Youth Council; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
15 Supervisors to formally endorse the campaign to establish a Presidential Youth Council; and be it
16 finally

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of
18 Supervisors to support the creation of youth government advisory bodies at both the regional and
19 federal levels; and to provide the Youth Commission with strategic support in developing and
20 implementing a plan to establish an official Bay Area Youth Commission in collaboration with the other
21 eight Bay Area counties.

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