[Declaring 2017 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth]

Resolution declaring 2017 as the Year of the San Francisco Homeless Youth, and urging the city to review the methodology used for the annual homeless count to provide a more accurate representation of the city’s homeless population, and urging the Department of Homelessness to include dedicated staff and services to Transitional Aged Youth.

WHEREAS, Approximately 3,200 homeless children under age nineteen live in San Francisco, a 94% increase over the homeless youth population in 2007, and the highest number of homeless youth in the City since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, This number is likely even higher as homeless families often shy away from self-reporting to government entities for fear of Child Protective Services interventions and food stamp reductions, and due to shame; and

WHEREAS, Transitional Aged Youth, defined as youth aged eighteen through twenty-four, comprise the vast majority of San Francisco’s homeless youth population; and

WHEREAS, Only 20% of homeless youth under age twenty-five surveyed in San Francisco are currently attending schools although 72% stated that they desired to attend school; and

WHEREAS, Less than half of homeless children in 2012–2013 nationwide met state proficiency requirements in reading, math, and science; and

WHEREAS, Over 50% of homeless children nationally are held back for one grade, 22% for multiple grades; and

1 Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco
2 IBID
3 Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey
6 IBID

Commissioner Cris Plunkett
SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH COMMISSION
WHEREAS, Homelessness is the single highest known risk factor for dropping out of school\(^7\); and

WHEREAS, Homeless children have an 83% chance of exposure to a violent event\(^8\); and

WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse prior to homelessness, and 67% experience these abuses after becoming homeless\(^9\); and

WHEREAS, 75% of San Francisco homeless youth have used illegal substances\(^10\); and

WHEREAS, 33% of San Francisco youth younger than age eighteen have been involved with the criminal justice system\(^11\); and

WHEREAS, 27% of San Francisco youth traded drugs for a place to stay, compared to 8% of youth doing so in 2013\(^12\); and

WHEREAS, 20% of San Francisco youth traded sex for a place to stay, compared to 5% in 2013\(^13\); and

WHEREAS, One in three youth are approached by a recruiting “pimp” within the first forty-eight hours of being on the street\(^14\); and

WHEREAS, Children in homeless families nationally are medically ill four times as frequently as are children with stable living accommodations\(^15\); and

WHEREAS, Homeless youth are much more likely to be on the streets and without a place to stay than are homeless adults in San Francisco\(^16\); and

\(^7\) America’s Promise Alliance, 2014, Don’t Call Them Dropouts: Understanding the Experiences of Young People Who Leave High School Before Graduation


\(^9\) Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey


\(^11\) IBID

\(^12\) IBID

\(^13\) IBID


\(^15\) Coalition on Homelessness, June 2015, The Roadmap: A 5 Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco
WHEREAS, 88% of San Francisco homeless youth were unsheltered compared to 55% of the single adult homeless population\textsuperscript{17}; and

WHEREAS, Only 7% of unaccompanied children under age eighteen in San Francisco were sheltered\textsuperscript{18}; and

WHEREAS, 52% of San Francisco homeless youth do not expect to obtain stable housing within the coming year\textsuperscript{19}; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Mayor’s Office recently announced formation of a City Department of Homelessness that would consolidate all homeless services\textsuperscript{20}, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the city to declare 2017 as the Year of San Francisco Homeless Youth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission strongly urges the City of San Francisco undertake an accurate count of the City’s homeless population, as estimates developed through the San Francisco 2015 Homeless Count, The Five-Year Plan to End Family Homelessness, and The Larkin Street Youth Survey all substantially vary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor’s new City department of homelessness include services dedicated to Transitional Aged Youth.

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Chair, Luis Avalos-Nunez
Adopted on March 21, 2016
2015-2016 San Francisco Youth Commission

\textsuperscript{16} Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs
\textsuperscript{17} IBID
\textsuperscript{18} Larkin Street, June 2014, Youth Homelessness in San Francisco: 2014 Report on Incident and Needs
\textsuperscript{19} Applied Survey Research, January 2015, Homeless Unique Youth Count and Survey
\textsuperscript{20} Fagan, Kevin (2015, December 3). SF Mayor Launching Department on Homelessness. \textit{The SF Chronicle}