[Motion to Support the Human Rights Commission Budget Request of $15 Million for the Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025]

Supplemental Information:

See attached document [Letter of Support]
April 3rd, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Mayor London Breed
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support the Human Rights Commission Budget Request of $15 million for the Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Dear Mayor and Board of Supervisors,

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports the Human Rights Commission and the $15 million budget they are requesting from the City and County of San Francisco for the fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This budget would ensure that equitable programs are being implemented, especially for BIPOC communities, to support and uplift the entirety of San Francisco. Thus, this budget proposal will ensure people have access to valuable resources needed to sustain and advance themselves in San Francisco.

The Youth Commission is composed of seventeen youths, between the ages of 12 to 23, who represent the diverse communities of San Francisco. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Youth Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The Youth Commission’s Transformative Justice Committee specifically has a longstanding history of advocating for the needs of TAY (Transition Age Youth) and marginalized youth to ensure their voices are being heard and uplifted in our City. Through initiatives such as closing 850 Bryant Juvenile Hall, the Transformative Justice Committee continues to pursue
sustainable solutions and avenues for San Francisco youth, as well as fight for social justice and an equitable City.

Thus, the impact that the San Francisco Human Rights Commission’s budget request of $15 million would have on youth, especially transitional-aged youth, is in direct correlation to both the Transformative Justice Committee and the Youth Commission’s mission and values.

For instance, a portion of the budget supports Opportunities For All which provides access to career exploration and workforce development for San Francisco’s youth and young adults through paid internships. The Human Rights Commission’s budget would also continue funding the Dream Keeper Initiative Fellowship which works with young people who have been impacted and/or involved in the justice system or could potentially be impacted and/or involved in the justice system. Additionally, the Human Rights Commission is committed to supporting programs that mentor our City’s young people year-round, as well as aiding programming that focuses on literacy for young people, such as curriculum development, distribution of books in collaboration with San Francisco’s Public Library, and in creating a curriculum on gun violence prevention.

Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission’s close collaboration with San Francisco students and their devotion to making sure that these students have a strong sense of self-worth and confidence, and know that they are being heard and valued— that their opinions are heard and valued—demonstrate the Commission’s impact in educational equity and most importantly, racial equity.

For all these reasons, the Youth Commission supports the Human Rights Commission and the budget request of $15 million, as we believe their current, as well as future work, is trailblazing and will have a positive impact on generations to come.

We thank the Human Rights Commission for all the work they have committed themselves to do in order to represent and include youth within their budget to ensure that youth’s voices are valued and heard.

Sincerely,

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Emily Nguyen, Chair
Adopted on 4/3/2023
2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
Yoselin Colin, Chair of the Transformative Justice Committee

Raven Shaw, Vice-Chair of the Transformative Justice Committee