Motion to endorse a letter calling for expanded public restrooms

Supplemental Information:

See attached document [Statement]
[Motion to endorse a letter calling for expanded public restrooms]

WHEREAS, Access to restrooms is a basic necessity; and
WHEREAS, The city provides public restrooms through a contract with JC Decaux for self cleaning restrooms and various other facilities as part of the city’s pitstop restroom program; and
WHEREAS, These existing public restrooms are limited both in location and operating hours, with some closing as early as 5 pm, failing to serve the 24 hour need for restrooms, especially for homeless individuals; and
WHEREAS, Failing to provide adequate public restrooms denies people of dignity and leads to public urination and defecation which harms all street users; now therefore be it

MOVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco signs onto a letter authored by Clarissa Ramos, a Jewish Contemporary Museum teen anti-bias fellow, calling for expanded public restrooms, especially in the Tenderloin neighborhood.
Dear Mayor London Breed and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Everyone needs a place to pee. Recent experience has also shown us the importance of having a safe place to wash your hands. Based on the last Point-in-Time count, there are 7,754 people in San Francisco who frequently go without having spaces that are and allow them to be clean. In addition, business owners frequently bear the brunt of people’s restroom needs and they’re not having it anymore. Starbucks is done being America’s restroom, but the people of San Francisco still have human needs. An increase in public restrooms will benefit businesses and their customers while lending a hand to the unhoused people in our communities. Public restrooms are necessary for our city to thrive.

The first place on your priority list for public restroom installation should be the Tenderloin. While in most neighborhoods that already have public restrooms, the distribution is sufficient; due to the high density of unhoused people in the area, the public restroom currently in the Tenderloin isn’t cutting it. In addition to installing more public restrooms, we need to ensure that every public restroom is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Human needs can only be held in for so long. Everyone deserves dignity, you can help make sure that all San Franciscans have some.

With hope,