

1 [Homelessness Services for LGBTQ+ Youth]

2 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to make permanent**
3 **supportive housing more accessible to LGBTQ+ youth**

4 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness
5 and insecure housing issues, and

6 WHEREAS, According to the SF LGBT Center, in order to qualify as homeless
7 a person has to be living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated
8 to provide a temporary living arrangement, or a with a primary nighttime residence that
9 is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping
10 accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or
11 train station, airport, or camping ground for more than seven days; and

12 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth experience specific needs when experiencing
13 homelessness and housing insecurity, like family conflict caused by their sexual
14 orientation and/or gender identity, unsafe and/or unaffirming supportive housing, lack of
15 resources dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ youth, and more; and

16 WHEREAS, The 2022 Point-In-Time count from the Department of
17 Homelessness and Supportive Housing reported that 38% of unaccompanied youth
18 under the age of 25 in San Francisco are LGBTQ+; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the 2022 Point-In-Time count by the Department of
20 Homelessness and Supportive Housing, people of color, especially Black/African
21 American/African and Hispanic/Latinx people experience homelessness at
22 disproportionate rate compared to their white counterparts; and

1 WHEREAS, A report by Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago in April 2018
2 reported that LGBTQ+ transitional aged youth are 120% times more likely to experience
3 homelessness compared to straight, cisgender transitional aged youth; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the same 2018 study by the University of Chicago,
5 LGBTQ+ homeless youth have twice the death rate of their non-LGBTQ+ peers; and

6 WHEREAS, A report by the Applied Survey Research firm in January, 2022
7 reported that 38% of homeless in San Francisco identity as LGBTQ+; and

8 WHEREAS, In order for youth to be eligible permanent supportive housing, youth
9 must take Adult Primary Assessment, where each question has an assigned score, and
10 the overall score decides whether an unhoused person is prioritized for placement in
11 permanent housing; and

12 WHEREAS, The range that youth have to be in to qualify for prioritization is
13 between 123 points, and 160 points, the same range used for adults; and

14 WHEREAS, Many questions on the assessment are targeted towards adults who
15 have a long history of homelessness; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco LGBT Center, the vast majority of
17 youth who come to them for assistance have often been housed for less than a week;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Young people by definition are less likely to have a history of
20 homelessness, reducing their need score and limiting access to supportive housing; and

21 WHEREAS, On September 30th, 2022, Gavin Newsom officially declared the
22 state of California a state of refuge for queer people fleeing the states of Texas, Idaho,
23 Louisiana, and other states; and

1 WHEREAS, The city of San Francisco is known across the country, and the
2 world as a sanctuary for queer people; and

3 WHEREAS, Many refugees coming to San Francisco have also only been
4 homeless for a short period of time, therefore not qualifying for permanent supportive
5 housing; and

6 WHEREAS, Due to young people not having extensive experience with
7 homelessness even though they are primarily being assessed on their homeless on the
8 same level as adults, they often don't qualify for permanent housing and remain
9 homeless/in shelters or other supportive housing; and

10 WHEREAS, The Adult Primary Assessment also does not have any demographic
11 questions a such as questions regarding gender identity, sexuality, racial/ethnic identity,
12 etc; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to this, the Adult Primary Assessment lacks LGBTQ+ cultural
14 competency by failing to consider the disproportionate amount of queer people,
15 especially young people, who are homeless due to being LGBTQ+; and

16 WHEREAS, the Adult Primary Assessment also fails to consider to the inequities
17 that TAY people of color face that leads to a disproportionate amount of homeless POC
18 youth; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco is responsible for establishing a secure and
20 welcoming environment for all residents, including individuals that belong to the
21 LGBTQ+ community; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a strong history of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights
2 and has made remarkable progress in safeguarding and uplifting the LGBTQ+
3 community; and

4 WHEREAS, Ensuring the availability of permanent supportive housing options
5 specifically designed for LGBTQ+ TAY is crucial for their overall well-being, mental
6 health, and smooth transition into adulthood; and therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and
8 County of San Francisco to create a housing placement assessment specifically for
9 youth; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
11 City and County of San Francisco to change the questions on the Adult Primary
12 Assessment to shift focus from tracking individuals extensive history of homelessness to
13 measuring the recent experiences of those who are assessed; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
15 City and County of San Francisco to add demographic questions on the current Adult
16 Primary Assessment regarding gender identity, sexual orientation, racial/ethnic identity;
17 and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
19 Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to include youth input and
20 feedback, and to do so in collaboration with the Youth Commission during the decision-
21 making process; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission staff is
23 instructed to distribute copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of

- 1 Supervisors, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and the
- 2 Homelessness Oversight Commission.