Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Unified School District to support the creation of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Police Department.

WHEREAS, In June 2020, the San Francisco Board of Education voted to not renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), severing formal and legally enforceable agreements between SFUSD and SFPD; and

WHEREAS, This MOU included formally written agreements on issues related to cooperation between SFUSD and SFPD staff, SFPD community outreach, school staff procedure for requesting police assistance, SFUSD providing SFPD training on youth development, restorative justice practices, and understanding school culture, and SFPD providing SFUSD training on crisis response and personal safety; and

WHEREAS, The Youth Commission held a hearing on May 15, 2023 “to discuss and understand the current status of school safety policies, procedures, and infrastructure at SFUSD school sites”, with SFUSD and SFPD reporting, where SFUSD’s Director of Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention Greg Markwith and SFPD Acting Commander Arran Pera confirmed that they hold weekly liaison meetings and “sometimes daily conversations” with other officers, but lack a formal written nor legally enforceable agreement on the relationship between SFUSD and SFPD; and

WHEREAS, At the aforementioned hearing, SFPD Acting Commander Arran Pera stated they believed it was better to have a written agreement; and
WHEREAS, At the aforementioned hearing, SFUSD’s Director of Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention Greg Markwith stated their greatest concern was making sure student rights were observed, and emphasized the role SFPD has played in ensuring that; and

WHEREAS, the ACLU of Northern California has a “Model MOU between School District and Police Department” from 2016 that includes, but is not limited to, agreements on offenses police officers versus school administrators should be involved, officer entry on campus, student questioning on campus, qualifications of department officers who may respond to calls from the school district, training and distribution of the MOU, and required reports from the police department on responses to schools; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission requests a new Memorandum of Understanding between SFUSD and SFPD to ensure that their current working relationship is upheld to ensure adequate safety measures and plans are in place and student rights are respected when police are involved, and that this new Memorandum of Understanding not include police presence at school sites as a matter of regular policy (not including community building events and emergency situations); and therefore be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission requests this new Memorandum of Understanding be modeled after the “Model MOU between School District and Police Department” from the ACLU of Northern California (2016), and include SFUSD students, families, teachers, school administrators, and other key stakeholders input in the process.