

1 [Recognition of United Playaz]

2 **Resolution recognizing and commending the work of United Playaz and their**
3 **dedication to youth development and violence prevention in San Francisco.**

4 WHEREAS, United Playaz is a violence prevention and youth development
5 organization located in the South of Market (SoMa) that serves more than 75 young
6 people per day and 300 young people per year; and

7 WHEREAS, United Playaz was founded in 1994 at Balboa High School as a
8 solution determined by students involved in a riot between Black and Filipino students of
9 the high school; and

10 WHEREAS, United Playaz’s programs provide youth with adult support,
11 academic enrichment, and leadership skills to prevent them from entering or re-entering
12 the justice system by reframing their perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about the future
13 and emphasizing the positive effect they can have on their community, helping them
14 gain the knowledge and empowerment needed to tackle daily exposure to social and
15 cultural pressures; and

16 WHEREAS, United Playaz’s after-school programs provides a safe haven for
17 elementary and middle school youth, providing them with access to homework help,
18 field trips, recreational activities, and life skills workshops, including but not limited to:
19 suicide prevention, gang violence intervention, entrepreneurship, cooking; and

20 WHEREAS, United Playaz provides in-school aid to support youth who have
21 difficulties in school settings, such as staying on task and other social interactions; and

22 WHEREAS, United Playaz has a presence in seven public high schools in San
23 Francisco in order to provide in-school violence prevention and support by allowing

1 youth to get to know their organization while developing leadership skills and
2 participating in violence prevention events; and

3 WHEREAS, United Playaz provides year-round individual case management
4 services to youth geared towards reducing cycles of destructive behavior by increasing
5 their knowledge and access to ancillary services through a well-established network of
6 partners and referral services; and

7 WHEREAS, United Playaz provides skill development and workforce training,
8 academic assistance with General Education Degrees (GED) and High School
9 Equivalency (HSE), as well as college enrollment services and referrals to vocational
10 training and other employment programs to ensure that their youth will become self-
11 sufficient adults; and

12 WHEREAS, United Playaz has assisted more than 100 students who have
13 completed their GED, enrolled in college, or completed vocational training and has a 7
14 out of 10 success rate amongst guiding at-risk youth; and

15 WHEREAS, United Playaz serves youth across diverse backgrounds from
16 Samoan, African-American, Latino, Asian, White, and multi-racial youth who are
17 encouraged to break barriers, recognize their similarities, and form friendships; and

18 WHEREAS, Eighty percent (80%) of United Playaz staff is made up of formerly
19 incarcerated individuals through its re-entry program who are dedicated to share their
20 experiences and mentor young people to make more informed decisions about their
21 lives; and

22 WHEREAS, One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of program staff consist of former program
23 participants; and

1 WHEREAS, United Playaz has been dedicated to fighting against gun violence
2 and removing firearms from the streets of San Francisco through their annual gun
3 buyback program, in partnership with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)
4 since 2014, by offering cash rewards to individuals who turn in their firearms with no
5 questions asked; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2014, more than 2,500 weapons have been collected by the
7 gun buyback initiative, and in the most recent gun buyback in December of 2023 almost
8 200 firearms were collected, including 16 assault rifles; and

9 WHEREAS, United Playaz leads the SoMa Youth Collaborative, which works to
10 bridge the gap between local service providers and the local elementary school, Bessie
11 Carmichael, with the thriving business community in SoMa; and therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission hereby commends the
13 work of United Playaz and recognizes the positive impacts the organization and its
14 programs have had on youth across the City and County of San Francisco, and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chair of the Youth Commission is authorized to
16 issue a Certificates of Honor to the United Playaz organization for their work on youth
17 development and violence prevention.