

1 [Resolution Urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to Adopt a Formal Definition of Family  
2 Housing]

3 **Resolution Urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to Adopt a Community Informed Formal**  
4 **Definition of Family Housing into San Francisco's General Plan**

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco is seeing a decrease in low and middle-income families due to  
6 income inequality and the shortage of housing; and

7 WHEREAS, the Planning Department had recently released the *Housing for Families with*  
8 *Children* report, commissioned by Supervisor Norman Yee, and

9 WHEREAS, Supervisor Yee had also requested a Board of Supervisors hearing on March 7,  
10 2017 and March 20, 2017 to discuss the Planning Department's report; and

11 WHEREAS, Supervisor Norman Yee had presented to the Youth Commission in order to share  
12 the urgency of the family housing crisis in San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the 2010 US Census Bureau, of the 12 largest cities in the United  
14 States, San Francisco ranks lowest for the percentage of households that are families with children  
15 (18% compared to the average of 29.4%);<sup>1</sup> and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the least amount of children of any Bay Area county;<sup>2</sup> and

17 WHEREAS, families are extremely important to cities since they call for a higher quality of  
18 safety and livability, build a multi-generational community, and bring diverse cultures and perspectives;  
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the two main housing aspects that impact family housing in San Francisco are  
22 affordability and unit size, and

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25 <sup>1</sup> Housing for Families with Children. San Francisco Planning Department. January 17, 2017:  
[http://default.sfplanning.org/publications\\_reports/Family\\_Friendly\\_Briefing\\_01-17-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Family_Friendly_Briefing_01-17-17_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

1 WHEREAS, 91% of all home sale listings in SF were either unaffordable or less than 2  
2 bedroom<sup>3</sup>, and

3 WHEREAS, because of this, only 9% of the housing stock is available to families earning the  
4 median family income;<sup>4</sup> and

5 WHEREAS, according to the Planning Department's *Housing for Families with Children* report,  
6 there's a mismatch between people and spaces, and

7 WHEREAS, almost all of the homes that are suited for large families are occupied already, and

8 WHEREAS, families occupy only 30% of 3+ bedroom units; meanwhile, 25% of families with  
9 kids are living single room occupancies (SROs); and

10 WHEREAS, there is a lot of overcrowding in San Francisco, particularly in Chinatown,  
11 Visitacion Valley, Downtown, Civic Center, and Oceanview, and

12 WHEREAS, these neighborhoods also have the highest concentration of youth and families,  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Chinatown is particularly suffering with 24% of households living overcrowded  
15 conditions, and

16 WHEREAS, 65% of families living in SROs reside in Chinatown, and

17 WHEREAS, SROs typically lack basic necessities like full bathrooms and kitchenettes, and

18 WHEREAS, the families living in SROs are generally the City's working poor and have been on  
19 waitlists for housing for sometimes up to 10 years;<sup>5</sup> and  
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23 <sup>3</sup> <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/other/family-housing-affordability-in-cities-report.html#calculation>

24 <sup>4</sup> Ibid.

25 <sup>5</sup> Housing for Families with Children. San Francisco Planning Department. January 17, 2017:

[http://default.sfplanning.org/publications\\_reports/Family\\_Friendly\\_Briefing\\_01-17-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Family_Friendly_Briefing_01-17-17_FINAL.pdf)

1 WHEREAS, research indicates that crowded environments can negatively affect children's  
2 social adjustment; there was a sharp increase in children's misbehaviors when living in homes with  
3 more than 2.3 residents per room,<sup>6</sup> and

4 WHEREAS, cities throughout the country and in the Bay Area have adopted a formal definition  
5 of Family Housing into their General Plan, and

6 WHEREAS, the Youth Commission firmly believes conversations between families and policy  
7 makers must take place in order to deeply explore the challenges to this housing crisis to inform viable  
8 solutions, now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to adopt a  
10 community informed definition of family-friendly housing into its General Plan, similar to other cities  
11 such as Emeryville, and be it further

12 RESOLVED, that the Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the  
13 Planning Department to host a series of community located listening sessions to hear from families  
14 with children and youth the challenges to obtaining housing, and to solicit community input on a  
15 definition of family-friendly housing and desired characteristics.  
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21 Madeleine Matz, Chair, 2016-17 Youth Commission  
22 Adopted on May 15, 2017  
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25 <sup>6</sup> Housing for Families with Children. San Francisco Planning Department. January 17, 2017:  
[http://default.sfplanning.org/publications\\_reports/Family\\_Friendly\\_Briefing\\_01-17-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Family_Friendly_Briefing_01-17-17_FINAL.pdf)