

1 [Urging the Defunding of San Francisco Police Department and Investment in Community
2 Health and Safety]

3 **Resolution urging the defunding of San Francisco Police Department and investment in**
4 **community health and safety.**

5
6 WHEREAS, America has a long and horrendous history of using the police and all law
7 enforcement as a force to inflict personal, psychological, communal and physical violence on
8 all marginalized communities but in particular on the Black, Indigenous and LGBTQIA+
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, The origins of American policing can be traced back to the preservation of
11 the slavery system such as the creation of slave patrols—forces created to identify escaped
12 slaves and return them to chains and preventing slave revolts; and

13 WHEREAS, From slavery in the south to factories in the north, the foundation of police
14 forces has always been to preserve the power and protect the property of the white ruling
15 class; and

16 WHEREAS, Gentrification does not work without criminalization of Black and Brown
17 people by the police as phone calls are not to report a crime but to report a Black and Brown
18 person; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a New York Times article covering “How Do the Police
20 Actually Spend Their Time?”, roughly 99% of police calls for service are not in response to
21 violence, but property crime and non-criminal matters; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco has approximately 8,000 people experiencing
23 homelessness on a given night and of the 8,000, 1,200 are Transitional Age Youth ages 18 to
24 24; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Young people who experience homelessness in the Bay Area are
2 disproportionately people of color and identify as LGBTQ; and

3 WHEREAS, A 2016 report from the Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office estimated
4 that the city incurred nearly \$21 million in 2015 to enforce quality of life laws against homeless
5 residents; and

6 WHEREAS, Police accounted for more than 90% of the costs and responded to more
7 than 60,000 incidents from January to November 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) budget has seen a steady
9 increase over the last decade reaching \$692 million as of 2019, yet according to their website,
10 violent crime has not seen a drastic change in over a decade; and

11 WHEREAS, The SFPD budget is larger than the Department of Children, Youth and
12 Families, the Department of the Environment, Department of Homelessness and Supportive
13 Housing, the Human Rights Commission, and the Public Defender's office combined; and

14 WHEREAS, The SFPD current draft budget for the Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021, is calling
15 for an increase in funding now reaching to \$738 million, despite Mayor Breed's mandate to all
16 department budgets to be cut; and

17 WHEREAS, The consistent increase of the SFPD's budget over the years has led to
18 direct violence inflicted on people of color, specifically black and indigenous; and

19 WHEREAS, We have seen countless Black and Brown lives were taken, including
20 Tony McDade, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, George Floyd, Eric Garner, Amaud Arbery,
21 Korryn Gaines, Breonna Taylor, Michelle Cusseaux, Rayshard Brooks, Alex Nieto, Mario
22 Woods, Luis Góngora Pat, and countless others because of police brutality and white
23 supremacist ideologies enacted by law enforcement officers; and

24
25

1 WHEREAS, According to Mapping Police Violence, law enforcement killed 1,098
2 people in 2019 and we have not seen systemic legal accountability from officers who commit
3 violence and murder; and

4 WHEREAS, Among those 1,098 victims, 24% were Black, despite Black people only
5 making up 13% of the entire United States population; and

6 WHEREAS, From 2013 to 2019, 99% percent of police killings have not resulted in
7 officers being charged with a crime; and

8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is not exempt from this violent anti-
9 Black and racist acts; and

10 WHEREAS, From 2013 to 2019, nineteen people were killed by San Francisco police
11 officers, one of the victims being Mario Woods, a 26-year-old Black man found with 20
12 gunshots inflicted by officers, many of which were from behind; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2015, Amilcar Perez-Lopez, a 20-year-old Guatemalan immigrant, was
14 shot four times in back and once in the head by two plainclothes San Francisco police officers
15 over an alleged bike confrontation; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2014, Alex Nieto, a 28-year-old born and raised in San Francisco Bernal
17 Heights, was shot 14 times while he was enjoying a burrito at Bernal Heights Park over a false
18 911 call; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco is preparing to pay \$455,000 to settle two separate lawsuits
20 alleging excessive force over an officer shooting a man in the back in North Beach and a
21 sergeant colliding with a skateboarder at Dolores Park; and

22 WHEREAS, According to reporting conducted by CalMatters, Latinx people makeup
23 39% of California's population but makeup 46% of police shooting victims; and

24 WHEREAS, Native American people have the highest rate of being killed by police
25 nationwide; and

1 WHEREAS, According to CNN, for every one million Native Americans, an average of
2 2.9 of them are killed annually from 1995-2015 as a result of “legal intervention”, a vast
3 majority being police shootings; and

4 WHEREAS, Alongside the U.S. government’s historical use of law enforcement to
5 scare and intimate Black, Indigenous and other communities of color, an aspect of modern-
6 day policing is militarization; and

7 WHEREAS, California mayors and local authorities were relying on the National Guard
8 and curfews to deal with policing of protests over the death of George Floyd; and

9 WHEREAS, In the month of June 2020, the state of California spent nearly 25 million
10 dollars to deploy approximately 8,000 National Guard soldiers to cities including Vallejo, San
11 Leandro, Sacramento, and Los Angeles; and

12 WHEREAS, Although San Francisco hasn’t seen any National Guard presence yet with
13 Mayor Breed initially putting the Guard on standby, but did not ultimately call them out, this is
14 not to say their tactics aren’t being used in the city; and

15 WHEREAS, In two major Black Lives Matter protests led by young people and was
16 attended by thousands of San Franciscans, including many families and children, peaceful
17 protestors came face-to-face with officers armed with flexible baton rounds and chemical
18 agent sprays; and

19 WHEREAS, In a 2017 published academic study from University of California,
20 Berkeley, on the use of kinetic impact projectiles (KIPs) in crowd control: 3 percent of people
21 hit by KIPs, which include rubber bullets and tear gas canisters, die from their injuries; and

22 WHEREAS, The usage of rubber bullets and tear gas still continues despite the grave
23 health risk they pose; and

24 WHEREAS, Using tear gas in the war was banned during the Chemical Weapons
25 Convention of 1993, yet it is still allowed for use by law enforcement officers; and

1 WHEREAS, A New York Times article states “tear gas may cause damage to people’s
2 lungs and make them more susceptible to getting a respiratory illness, according to studies on
3 the risks of exposure. The gas can also incite coughing, which can further spread the
4 [Coronavirus] from an infected person;” and

5 WHEREAS, A study conducted by the University of Chile showed “that CS gas, also
6 known as chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, may cause miscarriages;” and

7 WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has said the possible long-term
8 side effects “include blindness, glaucoma, severe chemical burns in the throat and lungs,
9 respiratory failure, and in severe cases, death;” and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco has not done enough to protect its residents, especially the
11 incarcerated population, during an international pandemic that specifically targets the lungs
12 and respiratory tract; and

13 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has voted to close County Jail No. 4 by
14 November 1, 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, However, according to the SF Gov website, as of June 1, 2020, the daily
16 jail population was 818 people, including arrests following a weekend of protests in solidarity
17 for Black Lives Matter; and

18 WHEREAS, Many health officials have expressed concern about how jails and prisons
19 have become “an entirely preventable outbreak” for COVID-19; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges Mayor Breed and the Board of
21 Supervisors take a bold step forward to break the systemic cycle of oppression and redirect
22 money from the failed and racist systems of policing, criminalization, and incarceration; and,
23 be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges Mayor Breed and the
25 Board of Supervisors to cut the SFPD’s budget by at least 50%; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That 25% of that money goes towards a “Community and
2 People Budget”, similar to the proposal for the City and County of Los Angeles in which a
3 percentage is set aside for social and community-centric services such as mental health
4 services, community and City and County programs for youth employment including
5 undocumented and previously incarcerated youth, and housing for the communities most
6 impacted by violence and incarceration; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That an 8.5% of the SFPD’s budget cuts goes towards to
8 social workers and trauma-informed counselors to aid victims of sexual misconduct; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That another 15% of that 50% goes towards San Francisco
10 Unified School District (SFUSD) public schools and Wellness Centers for mental health
11 professionals with an equitable focus for schools with a high percentage of Black and Latinx
12 youth in order to ensure they are equipped with the physical, mental, emotional and
13 communal tools to thrive beyond their education; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That community programs, separate from SFUSD, are
15 created and funded for formerly incarcerated youth and their families that teach non-violent
16 communication skills, peer-to-peer conflict resolution, facilitation skills for peer mental health
17 groups, de-escalation tactics, and any other necessary emotional and mental healing skills;
18 and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges that SFUSD uses the
20 money from recently ended SFUSD-MOU contract towards creating a stipend program that
21 teaches youth, with a focus for young girls of color, non-violent communication skills, peer to
22 peer conflict resolution, peer support groups and other emotional and mental healing skills;
23 and, be it

24
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to
2 ban the usage of rubber bullets and tear gas, especially when inflicting them on protestors;
3 and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges that Mayor London Breed
5 not call on the National Guard for the purpose of attempting to intimidate communities of
6 color; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to
8 honor Proposition C that passed in 2018, in which 4,000 houses were supposed to
9 permanently house families, youth and adults, 4,500 people were supposed to receive
10 substance abuse treatment and behavioral health services, and 7,000 people would be
11 prevented with facing homelessness by providing rental assistance and eviction defense; and,
12 be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Department of
14 Homeless and Supportive Housing to equitably provide permanent local housing for
15 vulnerable youth populations such as homeless, LGBTQIA+, Black, and Latinx populations
16 and those facing housing instability; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to
18 increase funding for community-based organizations that help in youth development, mental
19 and physical health programs, and trauma-informed substance usage programs; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges District Attorney Chesa
21 Boudin to continue the work of former District Attorney George Gascón of wiping all nonviolent
22 offenses of simple possessions of marijuana; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the San Francisco Office of
24 Cannabis to ensure, along with the Equity Applicant requirements, to emphasize giving
25 business licenses to Black, Indigenous, Latinx people and women transitional age youth

1 (those aged 21-25 years old) in order to equitably support San Francisco local businesses;
2 and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the San Francisco Sheriff's
4 Office to expedite the release of those incarcerated at 850 Bryant, as being in jail poses a
5 significant health risk due to COVID-19, and to provide economic, health and academic
6 resources for those released; and, be it

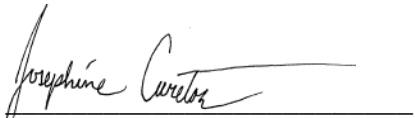
7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges the Juvenile Probation
8 Department to expedite the release of those incarcerated at Juvenile Hall and that they are
9 also provided with the economic, health, and academic resources they need.

10

11

12

13



14 Josephine Cureton, Chair

15 Adopted on July 6, 2020

16 2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25