

1 [Supporting the Funding Ask of HYPE (Helping Youth People Elevate) Center]

2 **Motion to support the HYPE Center's endeavors in providing key resources to**
3 **marginalized and trafficked youth.**

4 Whereas, The San Francisco Department for Children Youth and Families
5 (DCYF) has made recent funding decisions that result in no funding for youth sex
6 trafficking prevention or support in our city, significantly impacting vulnerable
7 populations; and

8 Whereas, Freedom Forward, a San Francisco nonprofit organization, is
9 dedicated to serving young people who are vulnerable to sex trafficking, particularly
10 focusing on transitional-aged youth (TAY) ages 14-24, who are increasingly being
11 trafficked and experiencing homelessness due to systemic and economic barriers; and

12 Whereas, Freedom Forward's HYPE Center (Helping Young People Elevate) is
13 San Francisco's only multi-service drop-in center that specifically aims to prevent
14 commercial sexual exploitation of youth, offering a wide array of services such as
15 mental health support, legal assistance, housing access, and basic needs like food and
16 showers, through a coordinated effort with over 20 youth-serving partners; and

17 Whereas, The HYPE Center has successfully served over 500 unduplicated
18 youth members, predominantly from BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and homeless communities,
19 providing them with essential support and preventing repeated exploitation; and

20 Whereas, Compelling success stories, such as that of Shanté, illustrate the
21 profound impact the HYPE Center has on young people's lives, offering them a safe
22 space, necessary resources, and a supportive community that enables them to escape
23 cycles of exploitation and homelessness; and

1 Whereas, The initial funding for the HYPE Center through the California
2 Department of Social Services (CDSS) under the SF SOL initiative is coming to an end,
3 requiring new independent funding to continue its critical services; and

4 Whereas, The HYPE Center requires an annual investment of \$875,000 for 2025
5 and 2026 to sustain its programming, continue serving the vulnerable youth population,
6 and secure a permanent funding stream; and

7 Whereas, The potential closure of the HYPE Center due to lack of funding would
8 leave 534 youth members without a dedicated space for addressing their basic needs
9 and accessing specialized services, thus exacerbating their vulnerability to sexual
10 exploitation; and

11 Whereas, Mayor London Breed has publicly supported efforts to prevent youth
12 exploitation and chronic homelessness, recognizing the importance of such initiatives
13 for the city's most vulnerable residents; and therefore be it

14 Moved, That we urge the City of San Francisco to allocate an annual \$875,000
15 investment for the HYPE Center for the years 2025 and 2026 via add-back dollars; and

16 Moved, That this funding will ensure the continued operation of the HYPE
17 Center, enabling it to serve the vulnerable youth community and prevent the closure of
18 this vital resource; and

19 Moved, That the City of San Francisco recognizes the essential role of the HYPE
20 Center in preventing youth sex trafficking and exploitation, and commits to embedding
21 HYPE into the fabric of services within the nonprofit sector to support and protect our
22 youth.

23

1 **[Supporting the Funding Ask of HYPE (Helping Youth People Elevate) Center]**

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3 **Supplemental Information:**

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5 See attached document: [Letter of Support]

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Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



(415) 554-6446
(415) 554-6140 FAX

San Francisco Youth Commission
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 345
San Francisco, CA 94102

June 17th, 2024

Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Supporting the Funding Ask of HYPE (Helping Youth People Elevate) Center

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Youth Commission, we are writing to express our strong support for the HYPE Center (Helping Young People Elevate) operated by Freedom Forward in San Francisco. Recent funding decisions by the San Francisco Department for Children Youth and Families (DCYF) have left youth sex trafficking prevention programs unfunded, significantly impacting vulnerable populations in our city.

The HYPE Center is the only multi-service drop-in center in San Francisco dedicated to preventing commercial sexual exploitation among transitional-aged youth (TAY) ages 14-24. It provides essential services such as mental health support, legal assistance, housing access, and basic needs like food and showers. The Center serves over 500 youth, primarily from BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and homeless communities.

Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



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The HYPE Center was initially funded by the California Department of Social Services under the SF SOL initiative, which ends in 2025. Therefore, additional annual investment is required for 2025 and 2026 to ensure the HYPE Center can continue its essential services and secure a permanent funding stream.

The potential closure of the HYPE Center would leave 534 youth without a safe place to access crucial services, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. I urge the City of San Francisco to allocate the necessary funds to support the HYPE Center. We welcome further discussions and invite city officials for an in-person tour to better understand its impact.

Thank you for considering this vital investment in the future of San Francisco's youth.

Sincerely,

Ewan Barker Plummer

Chair

2023 – 2024 San Francisco Youth Commission

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City Hall ~ Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



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San Francisco Youth Commission
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 345
San Francisco, CA 94102

June 17th, 2024

The Honorable Mayor London Breed
City Hall
1 Dr Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Supporting the Funding Ask of HYPE (Helping Youth People Elevate) Center

Dear Mayor London Breed,

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