

1 [Free MUNI For All Youth]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the San Francisco**
3 **Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to prioritize and allocate permanent**
4 **funding for the Free Muni For All Youth (FMFAY) program, recognizing its vital**
5 **role in fostering equitable access to transportation and supporting the**
6 **educational and social development of San Francisco's youth**

7 WHEREAS, Public transportation is the most efficient, equitable, and
8 environmentally sustainable mode of transportation that allows for many people,
9 especially youth, to have equal access to opportunities and resources in urban settings;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The 2019-20 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-
12 AL-14 "Transportation Equity - Free Muni for all Youth" (FMFAY) where they advocated
13 that the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate Income Youth program suffered from a
14 complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with
15 limited English proficiency and people who do not have easy access to the SFMTA
16 offices at 1 South Van Ness Ave. and/or internet resources, and disproportionately for
17 people who are Black, Indigenous and/or people of color; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 15, 2021, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation
19 Agency (SFMTA), with \$2 Million in funding included in Mayor Breed's Fiscal Year (FY)
20 2022 budget proposal, expanded from the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate Income
21 Youth program which started in 2013, and launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program
22 until August 14, 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, On April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve
2 their FY 2023-24 budget which included \$4.1 Million to continue the FMFAY program
3 until June 2024; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Free Muni for All Youth Program has
5 successfully operated since its inception, demonstrating a clear commitment to
6 improving access to public transportation for the youth of San Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2014, San Francisco adopted a Vision Zero policy that committed
8 the city to eliminate all traffic deaths on city streets by 2024 through initiatives including
9 engineering safer streets, education about traffic safety, enforcement of traffic laws, and
10 advocating for legalization of new tools including automated speed enforcement; and

11 WHEREAS, The SFMTA's Transit First policy complies with and complements
12 San Francisco's Vision Zero policy as it prioritizes public transit, bicycling and walking
13 on San Francisco's streets which shifts people out of their cars, significantly reducing
14 the amount of private vehicles on the road, and vehicle deaths and injuries by
15 extension; and

16 WHEREAS, The FMFAY program encourages and ingrains sustainable travel
17 habits from an early age, thus aligning with SFMTA's Transit First Policy; and

18 WHEREAS, Early exposure to public transportation shapes future transit habits,
19 as evidenced by a study published in the Journal of Planning Education and Research,
20 which found that experiences with public transit during early life stages contribute to
21 increased transit usage in adulthood; and

1 WHEREAS, Data collected in July of 2021 by SFMTA concluded that the
2 previous Free Muni for Youth (FMFY) program had 39,350 active users, which was
3 approximately 72% of those eligible at the time; and

4 WHEREAS, The current FMFAY program drastically increased the accessibility
5 and amount of youth using public transportation, seen in a survey taken in January
6 2022, that reported 61% of youth utilizing the FMFAY program, did not participate in the
7 previous FMFY program; and

8 WHEREAS, This long-term behavioral shift towards public transportation, as
9 identified in the study, can lead to reduced traffic congestion, lower carbon emissions,
10 and a more environmentally sustainable future; and

11 WHEREAS, The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the
12 FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access
13 school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS, The provision of free transit for youth is a vital equity measure,
15 supporting low-income families and reducing financial barriers to mobility; and

16 WHEREAS, By permanently funding the FMFAY program, the city reaffirms its
17 commitment to social equity, ensuring that all young residents have equitable access to
18 public transportation for education, employment, and civic engagement; and

19 RESOLVED, The Youth Commission strongly urges the Mayor, Board of
20 Supervisors, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to
21 secure permanent funding for the Free Muni For All Youth (FMFAY) program to
22 guarantee its continued operation and accessibility for all youth in San Francisco and to
23 include it in all future SFMTA baseline budgets; and

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the SFMTA to collaborate
2 with local, state, and federal officials to diversify SFMTA's funding stream to ensure the
3 FMFAY permanent program does not disproportionately affect the SFMTA budget; and

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board
5 of Supervisors to continue to promote the FMFAY program.