

[Family Shelters]

Resolution in support of expanding family shelter options.

WHEREAS, Current policy with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing limits families to a maximum of 90 days in shelters instead of indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, If a family needs additional time, the shelter can authorize three 30 day extensions based on family circumstances; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2023 SFUSD Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness (SAFEH) report, 2403 students are experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco 2024 point in time count, there are currently 405 families experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, At least 40 families were at serious risk of eviction due to the 90 day shelter limit before being granted a 30 day extension in late January; and

WHEREAS, According to HSH data, 83% of families in shelters are families with children; and

WHEREAS, Many of those families are monolingual and/or immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant families in shelters have received eviction notices despite working towards housing stability, including having a case manager and applying for rental subsidies; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant families in shelters face additional challenges of language barriers, employment opportunity, and the fear of being deported; and

WHEREAS, Youth facing homelessness on the streets face an increased risk for mental illness, physical health issues, substance abuse, physical and sexual assault; and

1 WHEREAS, Families and youth experiencing homelessness deserve our support
2 in preventing them from being sent back to sleep on the streets; and

3 WHEREAS, Evicting families and youth from shelters without the ability to access
4 permanent housing causes further financial instability and fails to provide humane
5 solutions to homelessness; and

6 WHEREAS, Access to homeless shelter services is a critical resource for families
7 experiencing homelessness, providing temporary stability to help pathway to permanent
8 housing; and

9 WHEREAS, In light of anti-immigrant policies and threats coming from the
10 Federal level, it is especially important that San Francisco continue to uphold its values
11 of compassion by supporting immigrant families who need homeless shelter resources;
12 and, now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of
14 Supervisors and Mayor to amend city policy of evicting families from shelters after 90
15 days with 3 eligible extensions to a minimum of 365 days on the condition of following
16 shelter rules to protect immigrant families and youth from further instability; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes
18 that current city policy of evicting families from shelters is not a sustainable,
19 compassionate, or humane way to address homelessness in the city; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes
21 the need for shelters to have culturally competent services especially given many
22 families in shelters are immigrants, including legal assistance; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
2 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to advocate for increased shelter capacity in all areas
3 of the city; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
5 Board of Supervisors and Mayor to also focus on long term solutions to homelessness
6 like affordable housing, workforce development programs, and mental health services
7 instead; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes
9 that addressing the above mentioned issues will help solve the root issues of
10 homelessness in the city; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
12 Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Faith in Action, Office of Supervisor Fielder, Office of
13 Supervisor Chan, Office of Supervisor Melgar, and the Department of Homelessness
14 and Supportive Housing.