

[Protecting Student Journalism]

Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to affirm and protect the rights of student journalism and free speech in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Student journalism provides a platform for youth voices, develops media literacy skills, and fosters civic engagement in youth by offering a space for open discussion and the sharing of ideas; and

WHEREAS, Infringements on the rights of student journalists and disrupting their ability to work and learn is incredibly harmful for youth and society; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, two Mountain View High School students sued their principal and district after they were reportedly intimidated by school administration and told to not publish and censor an article about sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, The advisor at the school stood by their students as they fought back against the attempt at censorship which resulted in administration removing the teacher and the introductory journalism class at the school; and

WHEREAS, A similar incident recently occurred at Lowell High School in San Francisco, where their student publication, *The Lowell*, published a controversial article covering verbal harassment by teachers; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Chronicle published an article about the incident on April 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, According to quotes from the program's advisor, student editors were called into a meeting after the article was published, where they declined administration's request to view every issue in advance; and

1 WHEREAS, The program's advisor, Eric Gustafson, stood by the decision made
2 by the students and was then reassigned from being journalism advisor by
3 administration; and

4 WHEREAS, Although both of these cases are still pending and ongoing, their
5 existence sends a negative message to student journalists in San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, The freedom of press and speech is a guaranteed right and students
7 feeling pressured to censor their words and ideas is unacceptable; and be it

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission supports the
9 advancement and continuation and student journalism; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
11 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to protect the rights of journalists and provide the
12 necessary resources and tools to support and empower both youth and adult
13 journalists.