

1 [Funding the District Attorney's Office Make it Right Program]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to preserve the District**
3 **Attorney's Office Make it Right Program**

4 WHEREAS, In 2022, 387 youth living in San Francisco were arrested and 104 of
5 them committed violent crimes. However, this is a large decline from 2010 when there
6 were 1,658 youth arrested and 311 committed violent crimes¹; and

7 WHEREAS, African Americans make up 5.7% and Latinx make up 16.4% of the
8 population in San Francisco, however the population in the San Francisco Juvenile
9 Justice Center show that it is racially disproportionate with African American and Latinx
10 youth being overrepresented in the hall; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a 2024 report made by the Center on Juvenile &
12 Criminal Justice (CJCJ), youth arrested in San Francisco had a 41% lower chance of
13 being incarcerated compared to an arrested youth living any other city in California¹;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Make it Right (MIR) Program and other youth programs run by
16 the DA's Office are funded from the Department of Children Youth and Families²; and

17 WHEREAS, The Make it Right Program promotes restorative justice for young
18 people as those who committed the crime have the opportunity to make amends for
19 their actions through the community, and if they are found successful then charges
20 would be dropped; and

¹ Mike Males, Ph.D, Senior Research Fellow, Maureen Washburn, "Is San Francisco a model for modernizing juvenile justice in today's era of sharply reduced youth crime? Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, January 25, 2024

² SF District Attorney, "Make it Right: A New Approach to Juvenile Delinquency in San Francisco," n.d.

1 WHEREAS, MIR has had 44 completed cases out of 61 since 2022, making a
2 72% success rate³; and

3 WHEREAS, 92.9% of participants believed that the MIR gave them a better
4 experience compared to the traditional court process; and

5 WHEREAS, the cost for one youth being held in juvenile detention for a year
6 ranges from \$625,000-\$850,000, while the MIR costs \$150,000 for 25 youth,
7 demonstrating MIR's remarkable cost efficiency; and

8 WHEREAS, Community Works West (CWW) is a non-profit organization funded
9 by DCYF that runs the MIR Program and in FY 24-25, DCYF allocated \$154,500 for
10 CWW⁴ to operate, however \$150,000 is allocated for MIR, leaving only \$4,500 for other
11 programming services such as voluntary therapy, which serves 80% of MIR youth,
12 casework, and other wraparound services, which includes program evaluation, data
13 tracking, and youth incentives; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to supporting San Francisco youth, CWW provides 37%
15 of services to youth outside of San Francisco, which further stretches CWW's limited
16 capacity. Yet despite this, 100% of persons harmed/survivors reported that CWW staff
17 listened to them and that they had meaningful conversations with the responsible young
18 person who caused the harm; and

19 WHEREAS, The true operating costs for CWW to run the MIR Program is
20 \$222,400 for 1 coordinator, 0.5 FTW program manager, rent & facilities, agreements
21 monitoring, and indirect 15% of costs supporting organization office rent, executive and
22 finance staff, financial audit, general liability insurance and other administrative

³ The San Francisco District Attorney's Office, "SFDA Presentation Youth Commission Presentation," May 19, 2025

⁴ "DCYF Funded Services," SF.gov, n.d., <https://www.sf.gov/dcyf-funded-services>.

1 expenses). CWW currently has a \$77,000 funding shortfall in FY 24-25, which CWW
2 covers on their own such as through grants; and

3 WHEREAS, In the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Proposed
4 Budget,⁵ the Department of Children Youth and Families is projected to have a \$0.3%
5 projected decrease (equating to roughly \$0.92 million) from fiscal year 2024-2025, and
6 reduction from FY 2024-2025 to FY 2025-2026, thus significantly hindering the CWW's
7 program staffing and operations, especially given that CWW already works under a
8 constrained budget; and

9 WHEREAS, The SF District Attorney's Office Juvenile Diversion Program Staff
10 gave a presentation to the San Francisco Youth Commission on May 19, 2025, urging
11 the Commission to support the MIR Program, as FY 25-26 proposed budget cuts could
12 significantly hinder preexisting staffing strains; and therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco
14 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to preserve the District Attorney's Office Make it Right
15 Program, recognizing MIR's cost-effectiveness and ensuring that all CWW's services
16 are fully funded for FY 25-26 and 26-27 from DCYF to maintain effective programming
17 for restorative justice diversion; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco Youth Commission staff are
19 directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Office of the Mayor, Board of
20 Supervisors, and other elected officials representing San Francisco.

⁵ CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, "MAYOR'S PROPOSED INTERIM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AS OF MAY 30, 2025," report, 2025, https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/FY2026__FY2027_-_MAYORS_PROPOSED_INTERIM_AAO_-_6.1.25.pdf.