

1 [Youth Lifeline Follow Up]

2 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the San Francisco Municipal**
3 **Transportation Agency (SFMTA), and the San Francisco Unified School District**
4 **(SFUSD) to implement promptly the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass in a way that is both**
5 **convenient and accessible to low-income youth.**

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7 **WHEREAS**, In the Spring of 2010, the Youth Commission (on 2/1/2010), Board of
8 Supervisors (on 4/6/2010), and the Board of Education (on 4/13/2010) each adopted
9 resolutions to create a Youth Lifeline Fast Pass for low-income youth; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, On April 20, 2010, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$1.4
12 million to provide approximately 12,000 passes per month at \$10 per pass to the SFUSD¹ for
13 FY 2010-2011 and FY 2011-2012; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, A July 22, 2010 memorandum sent to the SFMTA Board of Directors from
16 SFMTA Director of Finance and Technology states “beginning in September 2010, the
17 SFMTA will provide up to 10,000 monthly youth passes to the School District at a rate of \$10
18 per pass [...] The SFMTA anticipates receiving a final distribution plan from SFUSD staff by
19 the end of the month [September 2010]”²; and

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¹ SFMTA FY 2011 and 2012 Operating Budget document, April 20, 2010, page 5,
<http://www.sfmta.com/cms/cmta/documents/4-20-10Item11FY2011-2012OperatingBudgetnon-redline.pdf>

25 | ² Memorandum sent from SFMTA Director of Finance and Information Technology to SFMTA Board of Directors
on July 22, 2010 (See attached)

1 **WHEREAS**, It is now the beginning of January, 2011, and both the current academic and
2 fiscal years are well over half way completed—and the Youth Lifeline fast pass has not yet
3 been distributed; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, The SFUSD has not devised an effective and efficient plan to distribute the Youth
6 Lifeline pass, but, rather, has proposed selling the pass at a single downtown location that is
7 not easily accessible to most students (135 Van Ness Ave);³ and

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9 **WHEREAS**, The SFUSD is planning on charging eligible students a 20% administrative fee
10 on top of the agreed-upon \$10 price resulting in an \$12 pass at minimum;⁴ and

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12 **WHEREAS**, The SFUSD is also planning to require students to purchase the passes with a
13 money order, increasing the pass price closer to original \$20 Youth Fast Pass and
14 undermining the idea of the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass, which was to provide low-income youth
15 with affordable transportation;⁵ and

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17 **WHEREAS**, The Youth Commission is concerned with what seems to be inconsistency in City
18 documents with respect to the allocation of funds for the Youth Lifeline pass. A summary of
19 the documents reads as follows:

20 a) On April 20, 2010, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved their budget for FY 10-11
21 and FY 11-12, which included a proposal for 12,000 discounted youth fast passes for
22 low income youth “at 50% of face value of the [...] youth pass” identifying a 1.4 million
23 dollar revenue loss in those fiscal years.

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25 ³ In-person meeting with SFUSD and MTA staff, City Hall, December 17, 2010.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

1 b) On July 22, 2010, the SFMTA Director of Finance and Technology sent an advisory
2 memo to the SFMTA Board of Directors about the Youth Lifeline pass, which was also
3 given to the resolution's sponsor at the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Mirkarimi, and
4 the resolution's original author, the Youth Commission. The memo stated the SFMTA
5 Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$1.5 million to cover the cost of providing
6 approximately 12,000 passes per month at a rate of \$10 per pass to the SFUSD for FY
7 2010-2011.

8 c) In the Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO) for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, signed by the
9 Clerk of the Board on July 27, 2010 and by the Mayor on July 29, 2010, the SFMTA's
10 Youth Monthly Pass line item shows that there will be no revenue loss in FY 10-11 and
11 FY 11-12⁶; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, According to the two documents referenced in a) and b) above, the AAO should
14 have indicated that there will be a 1.4 (or 1.5) million dollar revenue loss for the SFMTA in FY
15 10-11; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, The document referenced in c) above was approved subsequent to those
18 referenced in a) and b) and are included with this resolution; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, According to the Sales Summary of SFMTA, 241,779 Youth Passes were sold in
21 FY 2008-2009; and

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⁶ FY 10-11 AAO, file no. 100701, ordinance no 190-10, page 178, "Youth Monthly Pass" line item.

1 **WHEREAS**, According to the Fall 2008 Youth Vote Student Survey, nearly seventy percent of
2 respondents (69.3%) use some form of public transportation to get to school⁷; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, Over 54% (30,010) of SFUSD students qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch⁸; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, Students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch also qualify for the Youth
7 Lifeline pass; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, The price of Youth Fast Pass increased dramatically in the last three years, from
10 \$10 in May 2009 to \$15 in December 2009 and \$20 in May 2010; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, The current cost of MUNI fares and fast passes are already a financial burden to
13 many youth, especially those in financially challenged families who are already struggling to
14 make ends meet; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, According to the Fall 2010 Youth Commission Survey, most public school
17 students (34%) have chosen lower cost as the most important issue to improve about MUNI;
18 and,

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Lifeline Fast pass addresses a manifest unmet need of affordable
21 public transportation for low-income youth; and

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24 ⁷ Fall 2008 YouthVote Student Survey, page 66, Edited by Peter Lauterborn, San Francisco Youth Commission
25 (<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=17354>).

⁸San Francisco Unified School District Summary, (<http://orb.sfusd.edu/profile/prfl-100.htm>).

1 **WHEREAS**, The Charter-mandated duty of the Youth Commission is to “Identify the unmet
2 needs of San Francisco's children and youth” and “and [to] make recommendations thereon to
3 the Mayor and Board of Supervisors” (SEC. 4.124); and
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5 **WHEREAS**, Youth Commissioners and Youth Commission staff have met with school district
6 officers frequently since June 2010 about the distribution and implementation plan of the
7 Youth Lifeline pass and are fully aware of the challenges the SFSMTA and SFUSD face; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, The Youth Commission held a hearing on December 8, 2010 in hopes of
10 receiving a concrete implementation plan for the Youth Lifeline pass; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, The Youth Commission commends the SFMTA and SFUSD for their work on the
13 implementation of the youth pass thus far; now, therefore, be it
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15 **RESOLVED**, That the San Francisco Youth Commission strongly urges the Honorable Mayor
16 of San Francisco, the Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors, and the Honorable
17 members of the Board of Education to urge the San Francisco Municipal Transportation
18 Agency (SFMTA) and the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to uphold their
19 agreement to provide a discounted youth fast pass (the Youth Lifeline pass) to low-income
20 youth in an efficient and effective manner that is both convenient and accessible for such
21 youth; and be it further
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23 **RESOLVED**, That the San Francisco Youth Commission strongly urges the San Francisco
24 Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the San Francisco Unified School District
25 (SFUSD) to complete the distribution planning process promptly; and be it further

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2 **RESOLVED**, That given that the SFUSD may include an additional 20% administrative charge
3 to the Youth Lifeline pass as per the Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the Youth
4 Lifeline Fast Pass agreement,⁹ the Youth Commission finds it more than reasonable to
5 request that the distribution of the passes be made more accessible to eligible students
6 compared to the current distribution plan; and be it further

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8 **RESOLVED**, That the SFUSD devises an effective and efficient distribution plan that makes
9 purchasing the pass more convenient and accessible of San Francisco's low-income youth.
10 The Youth Commission suggests the plan should include the following;

- 11 • Selling the Youth Lifeline pass at multiple locations in order to increase access to
12 affordable transportation; and
- 13 • Allowing students to pay for the passes with cash and/or personal checks; and be it
14 further

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16 **RESOLVED**, The Youth Commission strongly urges the SFUSD and SFMTA to communicate
17 more frequently and effectively with the Youth Commission to figure out the distribution plan
18 collectively; and be it further

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20 **RESOLVED**, That after the effective and efficient plan to distribute the Youth Lifeline pass is
21 completed and prior to the SFUSD implementing the distribution plan, the Youth Commission
22 should be charged with the task of approving the plan in hopes of ensuring such plan meets
23 the needs of San Francisco's low-income young people; and be it further

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25 ⁹ "San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Discount Monthly Youth Pass Distribution Agreement," II: C,
page 2.

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RESOLVED, That the SFMTA and SFUSD report back to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and the San Francisco Youth Commission after the second, fifth, and twelfth month of implementing the Youth Lifeline pass, and yearly thereafter, to review the effects of the plan and to address any revision/improvement needs; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges government entities to increase communication in order to promote consistency and transparency, and avoid confusion in city documents.