

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PASSES AGES 24 AND UNDER FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Youth Opportunity Passes are no-cost transportation for youth in San Diego County.

WHEREAS, Youth Opportunity Passes are an investment in youth by eliminating financial barriers to get to school, early career opportunities, and extracurricular activities.

WHEREAS, Youth Opportunity Passes expand access to mobility options and reduce health disparities by increasing transportation to healthier food options, medical care, and vital services.

WHEREAS, advocacy for Youth Opportunity Passes began by grandmothers, mothers, and youth from City Heights in 2011.

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors allocated \$3 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to no-cost transportation for youth and seniors.

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2022, the Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program began for a fourteen-month period that provides all youth countywide aged 18 and under with no-cost transit fares on public transit.

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2022, the Board authorized Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to pursue an agreement with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to launch the Youth Opportunity Pass Pilot Program and invested \$1.5 million from ARPA.

WHEREAS, overall ridership among youth has increased by more than 90 percent compared to the baseline of April 2022 and over 44,000 youth used transit in September 2022.

WHEREAS, Youth Opportunity Passes have increased the access to education and work for all youth, especially for our low-income transit-dependent youth in San Diego County.

WHEREAS, the cost of public transit presents a financial burden and limits career and educational opportunities in families that are already living paycheck to paycheck.

WHEREAS, expanding Youth Opportunity Passes to include youth ages 24 and under will support our college students, working youth, and opportunity youth.

WHEREAS, today's action demonstrates the County of San Diego is in strong support for additional funding opportunities for public transportation investments that eliminate fares for youth 24 and under.

WHEREAS, San Diego has the responsibility to continue investing in our young people through increased mobility options in our region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of San Diego, declares strong support for Youth Opportunity Passes for those aged 24 and under.

Approved as to Form and Legality

CLAUDIA G. SILVA

BY: Christina Snider, Chief Deputy