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****PRESS RELEASE****

Homeless Youth Service Provider 'At The Crossroads' to Receive Long-Term, Affordable Space

San Francisco, CA — Mayor Ed Lee announced a vital first approval of new space for *At the Crossroads*, a nonprofit that serves homeless youth and at risk young adults at 167 Jessie Street.

At the Crossroads will sublease over 4,100 square feet of space from the City at \$1 per year. It is part of a broader effort under the Lee administration to keep vital nonprofits in San Francisco and serving our most vulnerable populations; including a \$6 million investment to the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative. Over the next two years, nonprofits will receive support to purchase permanent affordable space, activate underutilized space, and mitigate costs related to displacement and relocation.

"*At the Crossroads* is a vital resource for our homeless youth. This new space allows this important organization to continue their work in serving a community that is vulnerable and at risk," said Mayor Lee. "The City's \$6 million investment will ensure nonprofits such as *At the Crossroads* and many more that provide critical social and health services for our children, families, and in arts and culture maintain their invaluable work for the well-being of all San Franciscans."

At the Crossroads will also be eligible to apply for up to \$950,000 for necessary tenant improvements to support its mission to work with disconnected homeless youth and young adults (ages 13-29) to build healthy and fulfilling lives through stable housing, employment services, education, and counseling. The legislation for the sublease is sponsored by the Mayor and is co-sponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim. It was approved at the Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee today.

At the Crossroads was selected through a competitive request for proposals issued last fall. The sublease is for five years and includes a five year option. As a result of this new lease, rent savings will allow *At the Crossroads* to hire program staff to scale the depth and impact of their work in the field for homeless youth.

"San Francisco's nonprofits are a vital part of our economy," said Todd Rufo, director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. "The Office of Economic and Workforce Development helps all groups start, stay, and grow in San Francisco. We are committed to connecting nonprofits with resources and assistance so that San Francisco residents have access to the important public benefits they provide."

The Lee administration's investments has helped dozens of nonprofits secure space over the past two years. Through the Nonprofit Displacement Mitigation Program, forty organizations have been awarded \$2.25 million in financial assistance, and secured leases of three years or more that in total occupy over 250,000 square feet of space. Securing long-term homes for San Francisco's nonprofits has also resulted in preserving 500 full-time and 249 part-time jobs citywide. The Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative is a collaboration between the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, the Arts Commission, and other key partners.

"Getting the space at 167 Jessie Street, and the accompanying grant, is the most important thing to happen to *At the Crossroads* since the day we were awarded our start-up money. It saves us from an uncertain future, and instead provides us with a long-term home that will enable us to expand our operations and assist thousands of young people on the streets of San Francisco," said Rob Gitin, Executive Director of *At the Crossroads*. "These are young people who have often fallen through the cracks of social services, who have the ability to build happy, healthy lives when they receive consistent, compassionate support. This opportunity will change the face of our organization."

Last year, *At the Crossroads* made 11,000 contacts with youth on the street and had 3,100 counseling conversations. Ninety percent of their counseling clients accomplished one or more of their life goals including getting into stable housing, finding employment, strengthening supportive social relationships, or returning to school.

Nonprofits seeking information about city grants, pro bono resources and real estate resources can visit the website of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, www.owd.org/nonprofits.

At the Crossroads

The mission of '*At The Crossroads*' is to reach out to homeless youth and young adults at their point of need, and work with them to build healthy and fulfilling lives. Their innovative model focuses on young people who do not access traditional services and are disconnected from any type of consistent support. The nonprofit works to remove common barriers to service by bringing counselors onto the streets and shaping support services around the needs of each individual client. For more information, visit <http://www.atthecrossroads.org>

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