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**** PRESS RELEASE****

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO HOST SUMMER YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Lunch time program aimed at teaching summer interns skills for success including, professionalism, networking, and pathways

Mentorship program to complement HRC’s on-going initiative toward implementing recommendations found in long standing equity and disparity reports

Moreover, series to build on Mayor Lee’s historic call for summer employment for youth

(San Francisco, CA)- The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) in conjunction with Mo’Magic, the HRC’s Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and the African American Leadership Council (AALC) is proud to host a summer long “brown bag” lunch series for underserved youth participating in summer internships with the City. The program is intended to provide youth from some of the City’s most vulnerable communities with the vital skills needed to be successful in today’s highly competitive job market. The mentorship program will also expose participating youth to a variety of “soft skills” applications to assist them in the “art” of networking as well as ensuring that they are getting the best possible and most rewarding experience from their summer internship.

“Giving young people job opportunities is among my highest priorities,” said Mayor Ed Lee. “This mentorship program supports my San Francisco Summer Jobs + Initiative, which is investing in our youth, giving them valuable job skills and preparing our next generation of leaders.”

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission stated, “One of the important goals of this mentorship program is to expose these young people to individuals who may have experienced similar challenges as a youth but who were able to overcome these barriers and ultimately become successful professionals in their own right. This mentorship program can make such a difference in the professional development of these young people and significantly improve their chances for future success as career professionals.”

Sheryl Evans Davis, Human Rights Commissioner and Director of Mo’ Magic, a collaborative San Francisco neighborhood-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform the community and youth through the MAGIC of collaboration noted, “It remains so important that our youth see and hear from people with whom they share a cultural kinship that anything in life is possible with the right direction and guidance. Not only will the youth benefit from this program but as a result their families and the communities in which they live may also benefit as well.”

Mayor Lee has joined the Obama Administration’s Summer Jobs+ Challenge, which was launched by the White House in January, as a “call-to-action for businesses, non-profits and governments” to provide meaningful job opportunities via summer employment for youth and young adults. Partners in this challenge include the Office of the Mayor, United Way of the Bay Area, AfterCollege, the San Francisco...
Unified School District, as well as many other community organizations training today's youth for employment.

This mentorship program is one of a variety of initiatives being put forth by the HRC intended to address the on-going concerns of the African American community calling for the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the equity and disparity reports such as the “Unfinished Agenda” and the African-American Out-Migration reports. This effort also builds upon the Mayor Office’s summer youth work program initiative and includes a number of city departments that have signed on to participate.

For more information on the HRC’s summer mentorship program, please contact the HRC Office at (415) 252-2500.

For more information about San Francisco Summer Jobs+, go to HireSFYouth.org or call 3-1-1 or 2-1-1.

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) works to increase equality, eradicate discrimination, and to protect human rights for all people.

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