

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency
Greg Suhr, Chief, Police Department
Vicki Hennessy, Sheriff, Sheriff's Department
Barbara A. Garcia, Director, Department of Public Health
Emily Murase, PhD, Executive Director, Department on the Status of Women

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Committee Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: May 2, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Campos on April 26, 2016:

File No. 160429

Resolution urging the Human Services Agency and San Francisco Police Department to train city employees and contractors on the rights of women to breastfeed in public and urging any city department with a public waiting room to post a sign welcoming breastfeeding in public waiting areas.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

cc:

Christine Fountain, Police Department
Sergeant Rachael Kilshaw, Police Department
Theodore Toet, Sheriff's Department
Katherine Gorwood, Sheriff's Department
Eileen Hirst, Sheriff's Department
Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health
Colleen Chawla, Department of Public Health
Minouche Kandel, Department on the Status of Women

1 [Urging Training and Promotion of the Right to Breastfeed in Public]

2

3 **Resolution urging the Human Services Agency and San Francisco Police Department**
4 **to train city employees and contractors on the rights of women to breastfeed in public**
5 **and urging any city department with a public waiting room to post a sign welcoming**
6 **breastfeeding in public waiting areas.**

7

8 WHEREAS, Mildred Musni was recently shamed and harassed by a security guard for
9 breastfeeding her 4-month-old son in the waiting room of the Human Services Agency office
10 where she was waiting to apply for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids
11 (CalWORKS); and

12 WHEREAS, When Ms. Musni called the San Francisco Police Department for
13 assistance because she felt intimidated by the security officer, the Officer who arrived on the
14 scene was dismissive of her complaint and told her if she nursed in public she might be
15 charged with indecent exposure; and

16 WHEREAS, California Civil Code, Section 43.3 gives mothers the right to publically
17 breastfeed in any location, public or private, where a mother and child are permitted; and

18 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding has some of the most positive and long lasting effects on a
19 baby's health and development, including lower risk of gastroenteritis, respiratory infections,
20 sudden infant death syndrome, obesity, type 1 & 2 diabetes, and allergies; and

21 WHEREAS, Breastfeeding also has positive health impacts for mothers including
22 protections against ovarian and breast cancer and hip fractures; and

23 WHEREAS, With the introduction of bottle feeding in the beginning of the 20th Century,
24 breastfeeding declined dramatically in the United States; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Because of the enormous health benefits of breastfeeding, health
2 advocates and officials at the local, state, and federal levels have embarked on campaigns
3 and policies to encourage mothers to nurse their children; and

4 WHEREAS, Mothers in San Francisco regularly report being shamed or ridiculed for
5 nursing in public; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors wants to encourage
7 mothers to breastfeed in public without fear or shame; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That to create an atmosphere where mothers feel welcome to
9 nurse in public, the Board urges every city department, including, the Human Services
10 Agency, to post a sign in any public waiting room that welcomes breastfeeding; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Human Services Agency and the
12 San Francisco Police Department to train all staff regarding the right of mothers to breastfeed
13 in public.