

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director,
Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood
Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 18, 2024

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Safai on March 12, 2024:

File No. 240239

Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to prioritize families with children to receive shelter or hotel vouchers the same day that they arrive at an access point, to develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on children and families to prevent children from living on the streets and develop a multilingual, accessible public dashboard where families can monitor the waitlist and the progress of moving families into permanent housing.

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:
Offices of Chair Stefani and Supervisor Safai
Dylan Schneider, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Emily Cohen, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Bridget Badasow, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

1 [Urging Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to Develop a Comprehensive
2 Plan that Prioritizes Families with Children to Receive Shelter]

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to**
4 **prioritize families with children to receive shelter or hotel vouchers the same day that**
5 **they arrive at an access point, to develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on**
6 **children and families to prevent children from living on the streets and develop a**
7 **multilingual, accessible public dashboard where families can monitor the waitlist and**
8 **the progress of moving families into permanent housing.**

9
10 WHEREAS, Cities across the country are experiencing a surge in both immigration and
11 homelessness as families fleeing violence and persecution come to the United States (U.S.)
12 to seek asylum; and

13 WHEREAS, Community members, immigrant families, and faith leaders, including
14 Faith in Action Bay Area have held multiple meetings with elected officials and organized
15 community actions to raise awareness about the City's inadequate shelter and housing for
16 vulnerable families, and the lack of transparency around access, follow up while waiting for
17 spots, and overall information; and

18 WHEREAS, Faith in Action Bay Area and families have requested on multiple
19 occasions to meet with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)
20 Director and the Mayor, receiving no response to their requests; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite San Francisco being a Sanctuary City, the Mayor's administration
22 has remained silent, leaving small children and their families to sleep in vehicles, on MUNI,
23 under gas station roofs, and in parks; and

24 WHEREAS, San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) data shows a significant
25 number of students experiencing homelessness in 2018 (2,580 students), under a definition

1 inclusive of households who are living doubled up with friends or relatives (1,661 students),
2 households who are paying for their own stays in hotels or motels (291 students), and
3 households who are sheltered or unsheltered (628 students); and

4 WHEREAS, HSH Strategic Plan acknowledges that “housing insecurity and
5 overcrowding also illustrate structural racism in San Francisco, with Asian-Pacific Islander and
6 Latine households more likely to live in overcrowded and severely overcrowded conditions,
7 and Black and Latine households reporting experiencing higher rates of housing insecurity;”
8 and

9 WHEREAS, HSH and the Mayor’s Administration have yet to respond to the growing
10 number of children and families living on our streets, despite the Department’s own strategic
11 plan calling for a redesign of the Coordinated Entry (CE) system to be “more focused on
12 welcoming people into services and not re-traumatizing people by making them tell their story
13 repeatedly” and recommending “access to services and housing should be provided much
14 more quickly”, instead showing absolute disregard for this population and failure to deliver on
15 their own goals; and

16 WHEREAS, Findings in these reports show that HSH has failed to engage with the
17 impacted community, improve language access, or provide culturally-responsive and
18 equitable services to families with children, despite these being key recommendations to
19 improve services and relationship with underserved, neglected communities; now, therefore,
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Department of
22 Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to develop a comprehensive plan focused on
23 children and families and guarantees that no child will be forced to sleep on the street; and, be
24 it
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to provide
2 immediate services to ensure that families with children will receive shelter and/ or hotel
3 vouchers the same day that they arrive at an access point, and be allowed to extend their
4 hotel vouchers if there is no alternative for housing or shelter when the initial voucher expires;
5 and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to create
7 multilingual transparency measures, such as a publicly accessible dashboard, to monitor
8 participants' waitlist status and the Department's progress on transitioning children and
9 families into permanent housing, and create a seamless case management trail for each
10 family to keep track of their status and ensure they have shelter while more permanent
11 housing is pending; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls upon this administration to
13 acknowledge the humanitarian crisis of unhoused children and families sleeping on our
14 streets and declare a state of emergency, adequately count unhoused families and children,
15 effectively report the number of vacant units/ beds to measure the need and help create
16 adequate responses, and proactively seek additional funding through private-public
17 partnerships that will ensure HSH achieves the goals set forth in their Strategic Plan with an
18 expressed pathway and timeline commensurate with the crisis at hand.

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☒ 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- ☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- ☐ 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request.
- ☐ 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No.
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- ☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Safaí; Ronen, Walton, Preston, Chan

Subject:

Urging Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to develop a Comprehensive plan that prioritizes families with children to receive shelter and create an accessible public dashboard for transparent monitoring of the waitlist and the progress of moving families into permanent housing

The text is listed:

Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to prioritize families with children to receive shelter or hotel vouchers the same day that they arrive at an access point, to develop a comprehensive plan that focuses on children and families to prevent children from living on the streets and develop a multilingual, accessible public dashboard where families can monitor the waitlist and the progress of moving families into permanent housing

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: Safaí

For Clerk's Use Only