

1 [Behested Payment Waiver - Economic Revitalization Efforts]

2
3 **Resolution authorizing a six-month waiver of the City's Behested Payments Ordinance**
4 **for the Mayor, members of the Mayor's Office, and the Executive Director of the Office**
5 **of Economic and Workforce Development to solicit donations from nonprofits, private**
6 **organizations, grantmakers, foundations, and other persons and entities for the**
7 **purpose of supporting the continued economic revitalization of San Francisco,**
8 **pursuant to Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code.**
9

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a beautiful and historic downtown area that has long
11 been a connective hub for business, culture, and innovation; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco's downtown area is vital to the City's overall health and
13 vibrancy – many residents work, transact business, or live in the area, and it remains a
14 popular destination for both domestic and international visitors; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco and its downtown area have faced unprecedented
16 challenges resulting in part from the Covid-19 pandemic, including a rise in homelessness, the
17 closure of businesses, an increased number of residents living in or near poverty, a lack of
18 affordable housing, and residents relocating out of the City; and

19 WHEREAS, While the City has in place numerous policies and initiatives aimed at
20 encouraging a thriving economy in the downtown area and beyond, more resources are
21 urgently needed to make sure the downtown area can be clean, safe, and thriving; and

22 WHEREAS, The City is aware of various charitable public benefit corporations, such as
23 the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation, that aim to help revitalize San
24 Francisco and specifically its downtown area, to ensure that residents, businesses, and
25

1 visitors have a safe, clean, dynamic, economically vibrant, and innovative place to live, work,
2 play, and conduct business; and

3 WHEREAS, These nonprofit entities generally intend to accomplish this mission by
4 making the City safer and more welcoming for residents and visitors, ensuring and
5 maintaining clean public spaces, increasing foot traffic for local businesses, enhancing cultural
6 and arts programming, using financial resources to support local businesses and projects, and
7 researching and implementing other measures aimed at revitalizing the City and its downtown
8 area, including projects in partnership with the City and projects that may become owned or
9 maintained by the City; and

10 WHEREAS, These nonprofit entities are fundraising for these efforts, and the City is
11 generally supportive of these efforts and their potential; and

12 WHEREAS, In the past, the City has collaborated with other nonprofit organizations,
13 private entities, grantmakers, foundations, and other entities, including through contracts or
14 grants or permits; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has previously waived the Behested Payments
16 Ordinance under Section 3.620(f) to enable the Mayor and relevant officials to support the
17 continued economic revitalization of San Francisco including the downtown area, and the
18 Mayor and relevant officials have committed to transparency and accountability by complying
19 with all applicable reporting requirements; and

20 WHEREAS, More than 40 million dollars have been pledged to support downtown
21 revitalization through the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation's private
22 fundraising efforts; and

23 WHEREAS, This waiver will likewise serve the public interest and does not create an
24 appearance of impropriety; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That under Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct
2 Code, the Board of Supervisors hereby approves the waiver of the Behested Payments
3 Ordinance for six months authorizing the Mayor; the Mayor's Chief of Staff; the Deputy Chief
4 of Staff; the Director of Communications & Public Affairs; the Chief of Protocol; the Director of
5 Strategic Partnerships; and the Policy Chiefs (Health, Homelessness & Family Services,
6 Housing & Economic Development, Infrastructure, Climate & Mobility, and Public Safety), the
7 Executive Director of the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), and
8 each of their direct reports, to solicit donations from private individuals and organizations to
9 support the continued economic revitalization of San Francisco including the downtown area;
10 and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this waiver shall expire six months after the effective date
12 of this Resolution; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this waiver continues to be subject to the City's rules and
14 policies governing transparency and disclosure, including annual reporting to the Board of
15 Supervisors and other applicable requirements.