

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, Department of Public Health  
Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

FROM: Alisa Somera, Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Board of Supervisors

DATE: January 26, 2022

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on January 4, 2022:

**File No. 220020      Urging the Departments of Public Health and Homelessness and Supportive Housing to Implement an Emergency Plan Maximizing Vaccinated Shelter Capacity**

Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to coordinate and implement an emergency operations plan to maximize shelter capacity through creative strategies, including but not limited to, consolidating fully vaccinated shelter clients within our existing shelter system at pre-pandemic levels, where possible, and maximizing on-site staffing by established shelter providers, through whatever emergency investments are available.

You are being provided this informational referral since the legislation may affect your department.

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 or [alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org).

c: Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health  
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health  
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health  
Ana Validzic, Department of Public Health  
Dylan Schneider, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

1 [Urging the Departments of Public Health and Homelessness and Supportive Housing to  
2 Implement an Emergency Plan Maximizing Vaccinated Shelter Capacity]

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health and the Department of**  
4 **Homelessness and Supportive Housing to coordinate and implement an emergency**  
5 **operations plan to maximize shelter capacity through creative strategies, including but**  
6 **not limited to, consolidating fully vaccinated shelter clients within our existing shelter**  
7 **system at pre-pandemic levels, where possible, and maximizing on-site staffing by**  
8 **established shelter providers, through whatever emergency investments are available.**

9  
10 WHEREAS, Mayor London N. Breed declared a State of Local Emergency regarding  
11 the COVID-19 pandemic on February 25, 2020, followed by the Chief Health Officer's  
12 issuance of Emergency Health Order No. C19-05 on March 11, 2020, with these orders and  
13 all subsequent updated Supplementals to the Declaration of the Emergency and updated  
14 health orders explicitly designed to prevent a drain on hospital bed capacity; and

15 WHEREAS, Recent supplementals have been updated to reflect the evolving status of  
16 the pandemic, including the Delta and Omicron variant surges, and ultimately the State of  
17 Local Emergency and the City's emergency response are still very much actively in effect; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing has identified  
19 an approximate 9,000+ individuals struggling with homelessness and housing instability in  
20 San Francisco, and even before the pandemic, more unhoused residents experience serious  
21 public health issues and fatalities due to exposure to the elements during the winter months;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on homeless facility layout  
24 considerations, as of November 3, 2021, advises that local jurisdictions consider "in general  
25 sleeping areas (for those who are not experiencing respiratory symptoms), try to make sure

1 client’s faces are at least 6 feet apart”, which the Department of Public Health locally has  
2 interpreted by reducing all shelter facilities to half-capacity, dramatically limiting options for  
3 residents seeking shelter, particularly during the winter months; and

4 WHEREAS, While CDC guidance also states that there is still “currently not enough  
5 information available to determine the level of vaccination coverage needed in a facility to  
6 modify facility-level prevention measures”, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive  
7 Housing and the Department of Public Health have indicated that they have made significant  
8 progress vaccinating homeless residents, with 60% of the population now vaccinated, up from  
9 39% in August 2021; and

10 WHEREAS, The CDC also advises that vaccination status should not be a barrier to  
11 shelter access, and there are shelter residents that have additional considerations that  
12 necessitate they remain in facilities that provide tailored services, such as Transitional Age  
13 Youth (TAY), Trans residents, and women; and

14 WHEREAS, The homeless crisis has been exacerbated by the pandemic, and many  
15 shelter providers are now managing more sites to address the reduction in bed capacity at  
16 original sites, stretching their staff resources across multiple geographic addresses; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
19 Public Health and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to coordinate  
20 and implement an emergency operations plan to maximize shelter capacity through creative  
21 strategies, including but not limited to, consolidating fully vaccinated shelter clients within our  
22 existing shelter system at pre-pandemic levels, where possible, and maximizing on-site  
23 staffing by established shelter providers, through whatever emergency investments are  
24 available.

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