

1 [Authorizing the Police Commission to Hold Public Meetings]

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3 **Motion authorizing the Police Commission to meet remotely during the COVID-19**
4 **Shelter in Place Order.**

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6 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, Mayor London Breed proclaimed a state of
7 emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and on March 3, 2020, the Board of
8 Supervisors concurred in the February 25 Proclamation; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the County Health Officer issued Order No. C19-07,
10 replaced by Order No. C19-07b on March 31, 2020, extended and replaced by Order No.
11 C19-07c on April 29, 2020, directing San Franciscans to stay in their homes and follow social
12 distancing requirements when outside the home; and

13 WHEREAS, On April 30, 2020, Mayor London N. Breed issued the Eighth Supplement
14 to the Emergency Proclamation, providing that City policy bodies may not hold public
15 meetings from March 18 through May 31, 2020 unless the Board of Supervisors, acting by
16 written motion, or the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee directs otherwise, based on a
17 determination that a policy body has an urgent need to take action to ensure public health,
18 safety, or essential government operations; and

19 WHEREAS, The Police Commission performs multiple essential governmental
20 operations, including setting policy for the Police Department, conducting disciplinary hearings
21 on charges of police misconduct filed by the Chief of Police or Director of the Office of Citizen
22 Complaints, imposing discipline in such cases as warranted and hearing police officers’
23 appeals from discipline imposed by the Chief of Police; and

24 WHEREAS, Since the issuance of the Eighth Supplement to the Emergency
25 Proclamation, several incidents involving the San Francisco Police Department and posing

1 potential dangers to public health and safety have occurred that, were the Police Commission
2 permitted to continue meeting on a consistent weekly basis, would have been addressed in
3 the commission's regular course of dealings; and

4 WHEREAS, These incidents include but are not limited to (1) the release of a study,
5 requested by Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee and performed by Matrix
6 Consulting Group regarding police staffing; (2) the controversial use of "Thin Blue Line"
7 masks, featuring a black and white American flag with a blue line across the middle and
8 associated with the "Blue Lives Matter" counter-protest movement, by officers responding to a
9 housing protest in the Castro; (3) the shooting of an individual by multiple officers including an
10 as of yet unnamed off-duty officer; and (4) the arrest of an SFPD officer on suspicion of two
11 felony counts of rape and domestic violence; and

12 WHEREAS, Amidst a state of emergency due to COVID-19, many San Francisco
13 residents have questions and concerns regarding public safety, emergency rules, resources,
14 response times and any changes to police protocols, and the opportunity to raise such
15 questions and concerns at a public hearing is essential; now, therefore, be it

16 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors determines that the Police Commission has an
17 urgent need to resume meetings to ensure public health, safety, or essential government
18 operations; and, be it

19 FURTHER MOVED, That the Police Commission is authorized to hold public meetings
20 on a regular weekly basis, provided that such meetings occur by teleconference or other
21 electronic means without providing a physical meeting place, and the Commission complies
22 with all applicable rules under the Sunshine Ordinance and the Brown Act governing meetings
23 of policy bodies, as those rules may be amended by Mayoral or Executive Order during the
24 COVID-19 emergency.

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