

1 [Urging and Supporting Declaration of Local Emergency: Overdose Crisis]

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3 **Resolution urging and supporting Mayor London N. Breed in proclaiming a declaration**  
4 **of the existence of a local emergency around the overdose crisis and immediately**  
5 **implementing overdose prevention sites.**

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7 WHEREAS, The United States has seen a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose  
8 deaths since the beginning of the 21st century; in a 12-month period ending in  
9 December 2020, more than 93,000 people nationwide have died from drug overdose, the  
10 largest number of drug overdose deaths for a 12-month period ever recorded; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has already seen 404 deaths due to overdose this year,  
12 from January 2021 through July 2021; in the 12-month period between January 2020 and  
13 December 2020 San Francisco lost 719 people due to overdose, compared to 257 deaths due  
14 to COVID-19 disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Synthetic opioids and illicitly manufactured fentanyl entering the drug  
16 supply have accounted for nearly 60% of overdose deaths in San Francisco, and overdose  
17 deaths involving cocaine and psychostimulants have also been increasing; and

18 WHEREAS, The persistence and severity of the drug overdose epidemic calls for  
19 innovative and patient-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce other harms from  
20 drug use, while expanding access to evidence-based treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Safe consumption sites (SCS), also known as supervised injection  
22 facilities (SIFs), and overdose prevention sites (OPS), are places where people may consume  
23 previously obtained drugs in a safe environment under supervision without fear of arrest. The  
24 term OPS focuses on the overall purpose of these sites, and the shift to refer to them as OPS

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1 rather than SIFs or SCS reflects an effort to reduce stigma and emphasize their public health  
2 goals; and

3 WHEREAS, Around the world, these sites have been established in response to  
4 community recognition of local need; the goals of OPS are primarily to prevent deaths and  
5 reduce harms from drug use that could otherwise result in transmission of HIV and/or hepatitis  
6 B and C, skin infections, and other ongoing health challenges; and

7 WHEREAS, Overdose prevention sites provide linkages to substance use disorder  
8 treatment, primary health care, and other services, reduce public drug use and improperly  
9 discarded syringes, and reduce barriers to care for marginalized and hard-to-reach  
10 populations, including people who engage in sex work, people who are experiencing  
11 homelessness or housing insecurity, and people with a history of incarceration; and

12 WHEREAS, On April 11, 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors enacted a  
13 resolution charging the Department of Public Health (DPH) with convening a Safe Injection  
14 Services Task Force whose goal is to develop recommendations on the operation of overdose  
15 prevention programs in San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force released its final  
17 report and findings in September 2017 and the top recommendation was to support the  
18 creation of overdose prevention services in San Francisco. “The rise in public injection drug  
19 use and its harmful public health and safety outcomes has long reached critical mass in the  
20 City, and this urgency is commonly felt by members of the Task Force and San Francisco  
21 residents alike. Research consistently demonstrates that safe injection services are an  
22 evidenced-based harm reduction strategy that can address this public health issue,” the report  
23 stated; and

24 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force also found these  
25 sites do not increase drug injection, drug trafficking, or crime in the surrounding environments,

1 that implementing these sites would not necessarily require any significant or fundamental  
2 changes in public policy or law, and they require the same working agreements with social  
3 service providers and the police that syringe access, street-outreach, drug treatment and  
4 similar health programs receive; and

5 WHEREAS, Per the San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force Report, in 2017,  
6 Amos Irwin and colleagues published an article titled A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Potential  
7 Supervised Injection Facility in San Francisco, California, USA; at an estimated cost of \$2.6  
8 million annually to operate a facility based on the Vancouver program Insite, the researchers  
9 found that each dollar spent on overdose prevention sites would generate \$2.33 in savings,  
10 for total annual net savings of \$3.5 million for a single 13-booth overdose prevention site; they  
11 further found that an overdose prevention site in San Francisco would not only be a cost-  
12 effective intervention but also a significant boost to the public health system; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco Charter, Section 3.100(14), and Chapter 7 of the San  
14 Francisco Administrative Code empower the Mayor to proclaim the existence of a local  
15 emergency, subject to concurrence by the Board of Supervisors as provided in the Charter, in  
16 the case of an emergency threatening the lives, property or welfare of the City and County or  
17 its citizens; and

18 WHEREAS, The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens  
19 of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of two San Franciscans a day,  
20 on average, and taking the lives of more people than COVID-19 in the last 18 months, despite  
21 the reported over 5,000 overdose reversals with naloxone in the first part of 2021 alone, and  
22 all available effective means should be deployed to prevent these deaths; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
24 urge and support the Mayor in exercising executive powers and responsibilities as defined in  
25 San Francisco Charter, Section 3.100(14), and Chapter 7 of the San Francisco Administrative

1 Code to proclaim a declaration of the existence of a local emergency around the overdose  
2 crisis; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of the City and  
4 County of San Francisco will support the Mayor by concurring with a Mayoral proclamation of  
5 emergency on the overdose crisis.

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