

1 [Urging the Department of Public Health to Rescind Their Relocation Notice for Adult  
2 Residential Facility Residents]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health to rescind their 60-day notice for**  
4 **adult residential facility residents to relocate; and supporting adult residential facility**  
5 **residents and workers.**

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7 WHEREAS, Adult residential facilities (“ARFs”) are group care facilities that provide 24-  
8 hour nonmedical care to individuals aged 18-59 who need personal services, supervision, or  
9 assistance to support their activities of daily living; and

10 WHEREAS, ARFs are licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the State  
11 Department of Social Services (“CCL”); and

12 WHEREAS, ARFs play an important role in a locality’s continuum of care by providing  
13 people with mental illness an opportunity to live in community-based housing, rather than in  
14 institutional care; and

15 WHEREAS, Since 2005, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (“DPH”) has  
16 operated an ARF at 887 Potrero Avenue; and

17 WHEREAS, This ARF has been licensed by CCL to offer 55 beds; and

18 WHEREAS, This ARF is staffed by a dedicated team of registered nurses, mental  
19 health specialists, certified nursing assistants, social workers, and others, who work under  
20 difficult conditions to provide people with mental illnesses a healthy and stable environment;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, ARF staff work hard to care for residents with mental illness by providing,  
23 meals, housekeeping, supervision, storage and distribution of medications, and personal care  
24 assistance with basic activities like hygiene, dressing, eating, and bathing; and

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WHEREAS, In recent years, DPH management has failed to maintain staffing at levels that were sufficient to provide all residents with safe, high quality care or operate the ARF at full capacity; and

WHEREAS, In 2018-2019, DPH asked CCL for permission to temporarily suspend from licensure a total of 41 ARF beds so that they could be used instead as emergency shelter beds for people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, CCL granted DPH's request, thereby temporarily reducing the total number of beds at DPH's ARF from 55 to 14; and

WHEREAS, Department of Public Health stopped admitting new residents to the facility since September 2018, even as people were waiting in locked psychiatric wards to get into those beds; and

WHEREAS, Department of Public Health had quietly decided to place 41 long-term beds on indefinite "suspension", essentially removing them until further notice without consulting any resident, family members of residents, workers, unions, and other front line workers prior to making this decision; and

WHEREAS, On August 19, 2019, residents of the ARF, some of whom had been residing at the ARF for over a decade, received a Relocation Notice requiring them to terminate residence at the ARF within 60 days; and

WHEREAS, Residents of the ARF who received the notice were terrified about where they would be placed and surprised by the lack of process and transparency behind management's decision; and

WHEREAS, Residents began showing signs of anxiety and decompensation upon receiving the notice to relocate; and

1           WHEREAS, Workers at the ARF and union representatives of SEIU Local 1021 and  
2 IFPTE Local 21 were similarly in shock and outraged by the illogical and abrupt decision of  
3 the Department of Public Health; and

4           WHEREAS, Workers and union representatives held a worker led rally on August 22,  
5 2019, in front of San Francisco General Hospital with the support of over 100 workers and  
6 health professionals denouncing the Department of Public Health’s decision to close the ARF;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Unions representing affected workers have repeatedly reached out to the  
9 Department of Public Health management urging them to reconsider their decision and asking  
10 them to fulfill the meet and confer obligations as mandated by state law and the MOUs for the  
11 sake and stability of the residents; and

12           WHEREAS, Cease and desist letters and phone calls made by the workers at the ARF  
13 to not close the beds and evict the residents have been left unanswered by the Department of  
14 Public Health; and

15           WHEREAS, Given that the Board of Supervisors has introduced two pieces of  
16 legislation overriding the DPH’s decision to close the ARF that are currently pending; and

17           WHEREAS, Multiple requests by workers and union representatives to meet and  
18 confer with management over the proposed changes have been ignored by the Department of  
19 Public Health; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public Health to  
21 rescind the 60 Day Relocation Request notice dated August 19, 2019, and communicate with  
22 the CCL; and, be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public  
24 Health and the Department of Human Resources meet and confer with all unions representing  
25 affected employees and publicly consult with the impacted community, including residents of

1 the ARF to ensure that residents at the Adult Residential Facility are not relocated and that  
2 the facility remains open.

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