

1 [Urging the Mayor to Immediately Re-establish an Interim COVID Command Center to
2 Address the Omicron Variant Surge]

3 **Resolution urging the Mayor, Department of Public Health, Office of Economic and**
4 **Workforce Development, Department of Emergency Management, and Human Services**
5 **Agency to immediately re-establish an interim COVID Command Center to address the**
6 **Omicron surge.**

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8 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor issued a Proclamation declaring a local
9 emergency to exist in connection with the imminent spread within San Francisco of a novel
10 Coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

11 WHEREAS, On March 3, 2020, Board of Supervisors concurred in the Mayor’s
12 Proclamation to meet the emergency need; and

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is on its Forty-Second Supplement
14 of the initial Proclamation declaring the existence of local emergency; and

15 WHEREAS, The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) is
16 experiencing three to four times as many applications to its COVID Right to Recover Program
17 compared to 2021 and if this rate continues, the program could be out of funding by the end of
18 February or early March 2022; and

19 WHEREAS, Community testing sites are experiencing record numbers of staff
20 shortages and record numbers of participants seeking COVID-19 testing while the City
21 appears to be divesting support and resources to these sites during the surge; and

22 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has nearly ended the deployment
23 of staff from other non-essential departments to perform Disaster Service Work (DSW) in
24 addressing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, Department of Public Health (DPH) employees are experiencing high
2 levels of burnout, COVID-19 exposure, sickness, and understaffing in all divisions, especially
3 at the San Francisco General Hospital emergency room and intensive care unit, where
4 staffing numbers are declining at unprecedented rates and the need for more staffing is
5 immediate; and

6 WHEREAS, In Fall 2021, the City and County of San Francisco stopped supporting
7 community-based agencies with personal protective equipment such as N-95 masks and
8 general surgical masks to support vulnerable populations like seniors, children, and the City's
9 unhoused population; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Resources (DHR) ended COVID-19 sick leave,
11 on December 31, 2021, and is now offering paid administrative leave for employees impacted
12 by COVID related issues; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) on December 31,
14 2021, transitioned majority of its focus away from the COVID-19 crisis and relinquished most
15 of its responsibility back to DPH; and

16 WHEREAS, The City's COVID Economic Response and Loss Reserve has been fully
17 allocated with \$99.5 million allocated for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 and 14 million for Fiscal Year
18 2022- 2023 budgets; and

19 WHEREAS, Neighboring Bay Area counties like Sonoma County are urging residents
20 to voluntarily stay at home and limit going out as much as possible for the next 30 days to
21 stop the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19; and

22 WHEREAS, Private providers are not doing their fair share of testing to meet the needs
23 of their patients, which is causing patients to overly rely on DPH affiliated community testing
24 and vaccination hubs; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health relies on COLOR, a COVID-19 testing
2 vendor, for DPH affiliated COVID-19 testing sites and has not adequately scaled its internal
3 testing capacity or the vendor's capacity; and

4 WHEREAS, On January 10, 2022, COLOR experienced a nationwide computer failure
5 that stopped its ability to perform COVID-19 testing at several DPH affiliated COVID-19
6 community testing sites and previous COVID-19 tests are taking four to five days to render
7 results during this current surge of the Omicron variant; and

8 WHEREAS, The shortage of booster shots in the November 2021 left our seniors and
9 vulnerable residents in San Francisco unprotected and unable to endure long lines to get their
10 booster shots; and

11 WHEREAS, The reduction of isolation and quarantine beds for our most vulnerable
12 residents who are often housed in crowded living conditions is resulting in rapid infection rates
13 of COVID-19 Omicron Variant; and

14 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco must reinstate COVID-19
15 community testing and vaccine pop-up sites for areas that do not have a semi-permanent
16 community testing and vaccine site; and

17 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco must continue to support to San
18 Francisco Unified School District with personal protective equipment, COVID-19 testing and
19 vaccinations; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor,
21 Department of Public Health, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Department of
22 Emergency Management, and Human Services Agency to immediately reestablish an interim
23 COVID Command Center to address the Omicron surge; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to issue a Forty-
2 Third Supplement Mayoral Proclamation that reestablishes an interim COVID Command
3 Center to address the Omicron Surge; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to redeploy
5 Disaster Service Workers to assist in the shortage of staff at testing sites, Department of
6 Public Health, and SFUSD as it related to COVID-19 Omicron Surge; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to
8 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Mayor’s Office, Department of Emergency
9 Management, Department of Public Health, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
10 and Human Services Agency.

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