

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, Department of Public Health
Micki Callahan, Director, Department of Human Resources

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Government Audit and Oversight
Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: September 25, 2019

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Haney on September 17, 2019:

File No. 190953

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

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.

c: Greg Wagner, Department of Public Health
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health
Mawuli Tugbenyoh, Department of Human Resources

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

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.**

6
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

25

1
2 WHEREAS, In recent years, DPH management has failed to maintain staffing at levels
3 that were sufficient to provide all residents with safe, high quality care or operate the ARF at
4 full capacity; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Residents began showing signs of anxiety and decompensation upon
24 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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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2019 SEP 17 PM 2:16
Time Stamp
or meeting date

BY 

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Haney, Ronen, Walton, Mar, Fewer

Subject:

Rescinding Department of Public Health's Request to Relocate Notice for Adult Residential Facility Residents

The text is listed:

Resolution in support of Adult Residential Facility Residents and Workers' Request for Department of Public Health to Rescind 60 Day Notice to Relocate

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:



For Clerk's Use Only