

1 [Urging the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to Deny Non-Traditional
2 Retail Licenses]

3 **Resolution urging the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to deny**
4 **alcohol license applications of non-traditional alcohol retail businesses in the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco.**

6
7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) defines “non-traditional
8 alcohol retail businesses” as businesses that historically do not have a sales, service, or
9 consumption of alcoholic beverage program as part of their business operation and/or that
10 there existing business model has established an expectation to the public and their
11 customers that Alcoholic beverages would not be or have not been available; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control as
13 of January 8, 2016 there are 3,809 retail businesses selling alcohol in San Francisco’s 46.9
14 square miles, making San Francisco the most alcohol retail-dense county in California; and

15 WHEREAS, Since alcohol use in San Francisco ranks among the leading causes of
16 premature mortality for men and women, the San Francisco Department of Public Health
17 (SFDPH) considers alcohol a major public health problem; and

18 WHEREAS, Recent studies using advanced analytical methods by Toomey and
19 colleagues (2007) show that a higher density of alcohol outlets is related to increased rates of
20 crime, particularly homicides and assaults; and

21 WHEREAS, Treno and colleagues (2003) evaluated the effect of alcohol outlet density
22 on driving after drinking among 15- to 20-year-olds, finding that higher alcohol outlet density is
23 associated with greater prevalence of driving after drinking; and

24 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an average
25 of 500 underage youth die annually from alcohol-related causes in California; and

1 WHEREAS, Preliminary findings from recent studies conducted by the University of
2 California San Francisco (UCSF) at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Trauma Center
3 demonstrate that approximately 8% of alcohol-related trauma cases die from their injuries;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Of a sample of 300 moderate-to-severe traumas, 59% occurred in patients
6 with blood alcohol levels of .08 and above; and

7 WHEREAS, The study found that patients with a positive blood alcohol level
8 experienced more severe traumas, and therefore faced a greater risk of death; and

9 WHEREAS, Analysis revealed that the highest rates of alcohol-related injuries treated
10 at the Trauma Center occurred in San Francisco census tracts with a high density of alcohol
11 outlets; and

12 WHEREAS, Findings published in FY2006-2007 by the San Francisco Medical
13 Examiner (SFME) determined alcohol as the primary cause of death in 7.7% of natural
14 deaths; and

15 WHEREAS, Thirty-three percent of all non-vehicular accidental death victims had
16 significant levels of alcohol in their blood; alcohol was a factor in 32.7% of all vehicular
17 fatalities in San Francisco; alcohol also was a factor in 25% of all suicides and 31.8% of all
18 homicide victims tested by the SFME; and

19 WHEREAS, The Center for Open Recovery estimates there are 50,000 individuals
20 living in long-term recovery in San Francisco who frequent establishments that do not sell
21 alcohol and are currently designated as “Non-Traditional” businesses; and

22 WHEREAS, Conservative estimates conclude that the City and County of San
23 Francisco bears the cost of \$17,100,000 annually for the medical care of people with alcohol-
24 related illnesses; alcohol abuse treatment and prevention; alcohol-related emergency medical
25 transport; as well as disability and death due to alcohol use; and

1 WHEREAS, The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over
2 \$6,700,000,000 annually; and

3 WHEREAS, The SFPD projects that approving liquor licenses for Non-Traditional
4 alcohol retail businesses will contribute exponentially to the already extremely high density of
5 alcohol outlets, and therefore cause significantly more alcohol-related health and safety harms
6 in San Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Prevention Coalition and a broad range of community
8 leaders support the denial of the non-traditional alcohol licenses, based on research and
9 evidence reviews provided by experts in alcohol prevention from UCSF, SFDPH and SFPD;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, States, cities and counties have the power to place a legal limit on the
12 number of alcohol establishments in a neighborhood, city or county as a strategy to reduce
13 alcohol consumption and alcohol-related health and safety problems among the general
14 population; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
16 strongly urges the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to deny licenses to
17 non-traditional alcohol retail businesses in San Francisco; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
19 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage
20 Control, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, and the Office of
21 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

22
23
24
25