

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Emergency Ordinance - Limiting COVID-19 Impacts by Not Moving People Experiencing Homelessness Currently Placed in Shelter-in-Place Hotel Rooms]

**Emergency ordinance to prohibit the City from requiring people experiencing homelessness currently housed in approximately 2,300 Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Hotel rooms to move from those rooms until Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms is terminated or modified in a way that no longer reimburses any costs of these rooms, or people experiencing homeless housed in SIP Hotel rooms obtain a stable housing placement; these 2,300 SIP Hotel rooms shall continue to be available as they are vacated to shelter people experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19 infection, until the County Health Officer’s Stay Safer At Home Order is rescinded or expires; and requiring the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to prepare publicly available reports on the progress of placements from SIP Hotels into stable housing.**

### Existing Law

This is a new emergency ordinance.

### Amendments to Current Law

This emergency ordinance will prohibit the City from moving people experiencing homelessness out of their Shelter in Place (SIP) Hotel rooms until FEMA provides the City with written notification that FEMA funding available for SIP Hotel rooms is terminated, or modified in a way that no longer reimburses any costs of these rooms. The people experiencing homelessness currently housed in SIP Hotel rooms shall not be moved until the individual or household: 1) obtains, and moves into, a stable permanent housing placement; or 2) obtains, and moves into, an appropriate stable housing placement; or 3) chooses to move; or 4) is placed in an alternative SIP Hotel room due to health needs or habitability conditions; or 5) after the conclusion of the appeal process for violation of a rule covered in the San Francisco Shelter Grievance Policy.

Until the Stay Safer At Home Order is rescinded or expires, the City shall keep these 2,300 SIP Hotel rooms available as they are vacated, for temporary use to meet the needs of people in San Francisco presently experiencing homelessness at risk of COVID-19 infection, including: (1) people currently residing in a City shelter or navigation center; (2) people who are currently unsheltered; (3) unhoused people released from jails; and (4) unhoused people released from hospitals or isolation and quarantine rooms.

The Department of Homelessness Supportive Housing will be required to post a weekly report (Dashboard) with information including: (1) client status, and (2) type of placement, disaggregated by month and race in de-identified summary form.

### Background Information

Despite relatively low rates of COVID-19 prevalence in the City and County of San Francisco, the occurrence of the virus is rapidly increasing in the City and throughout the Bay Area.

Currently, the City leases 29 hotels, and as of November 15, 2020, is currently providing temporary housing to approximately 2,359 individuals and families in Shelter-In-Place (“SIP”) Hotels. In Resolution 330-20 adopted in July 2020, the Board of Supervisors expressed their intent that no person experiencing homelessness brought into the COVID-19 Response System, which includes City or privately-funded hotel rooms, congregate shelters, or Recreational Vehicles would be discharged to the streets, and that all people in the COVID-19 Response System receive a “Coordinated Entry Assessment” for appropriate housing matches.

In August 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$178 million budget to expand and maintain the Shelter-In-Place Program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, 98% of which will be reimbursed by assumed FEMA revenue and various state emergency and homeless prevention funds. As COVID-19 rates increase across California, the state government continues to make additional funds available for non-congregate shelter operations.

During the last week of October 2020, HSH released a new timeline for all clients in SIP Hotels to be “reoused” and for the hotels to be shut down beginning in December 2020, through June 2021. Despite a stated commitment from HSH to provide every SIP Hotel client with stable housing, fewer than 320 permanent housing options have been identified for the 2,300 single adults, families, and youth staying in the SIP Hotels.

Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases, on November 28, 2020, the Health Officer suspended or restricted certain activities. However, the plan to close SIP Hotels remains in place on a rapid timeline. There is a need for continued SIP Hotel operations in order to avoid COVID-19 exposure for the vulnerable guests of the SIP Hotels.

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