

1 [Directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to Purchase the Book “Poverty, by America”
2 for Staff Responsible for the City Budget]

3 **Motion directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to purchase 20 copies of**
4 **Matthew Desmond’s book “Poverty, by America” as necessary educational context for**
5 **the City’s budget process.**

6
7 WHEREAS, San Francisco is facing a massive budget deficit in the two upcoming
8 budget years; and

9 WHEREAS, In San Francisco the socio-economic divide has been growing and
10 exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

11 WHEREAS, As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, growing costs of living
12 coupled with record layoffs across industries have further perpetuated economic disparities;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been unable to provide consistent access to affordable
15 and high quality resources connecting individuals and families to housing, food, physical,
16 mental and behavioral healthcare, childcare, and stable employment at the growing rates
17 necessary; and

18 WHEREAS, Poverty is rampant in San Francisco and across the nation with over 38
19 million people living below the poverty line in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, Ameliorating or ending poverty needs to be the top priority for the 2024-
21 2025 Budget cycle in order to address the most pressing problems in San Francisco including
22 crime, street conditions, homelessness, and food insecurity; and

23 WHEREAS, Decisionmakers working on the budget – the Budget and Appropriations
24 Committee, members of the Mayor’s Budget staff, the Board of Supervisors’ Budget and
25

1 Legislative Analyst, and the Controller's Office – need to work together under an educated
2 framework to help guide difficult budget decisions; and

3 WHEREAS, Professor Matthew Desmond is a Pulitzer Prize winning author who has
4 recently published a new book, "Poverty, by America", that provides a sociological analysis of
5 poverty and its root causes in the United States and strategies to eliminate poverty; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Desmond's book will serve to create a background of shared
7 information for San Francisco policymakers in the face of our upcoming budget discussions;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to
10 purchase 20 copies of Matthew Desmond's book "Poverty, by America" as necessary
11 educational context for the City's budget process; and, be it

12 FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors distribute the copies to
13 the five members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Mayor's Budget Director,
14 members of the Budget and Legislative Analyst's office, members of the Controller's office,
15 the Clerk of the Budget and Appropriations committee, and the Mayor of San Francisco.