

1 [DPH Report – Strategies for Homeless Individuals with Mental Health Diagnoses, Substance  
2 Abuse Diagnoses and Chronic Medical Conditions]

3 **Resolution urging the Director of Public Health, in consultation with community**  
4 **organizations, to develop a report addressing “Comprehensive Strategies to Serve**  
5 **Homeless Individuals with Mental Health Diagnoses, Substance Abuse Diagnoses and**  
6 **Chronic Medical Conditions.”**

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8 WHEREAS, Homelessness has a variety of causes; and

9 WHEREAS, City strategies to deal with homelessness should be tailored to serve  
10 different client populations; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health (DPH), through its Community  
12 Behavioral Health Services Division and Housing and Urban Health Division, has been  
13 working for several years to develop such services, including developing a focus on  
14 individuals who are chronically homeless; and

15 WHEREAS, National homeless policy, including policies being promoted by the federal  
16 Interagency Council on Homelessness and various non-profit organizations, is beginning to  
17 focus on the chronically homeless, defined as individuals who have been homeless for more  
18 than one year and who have a disability; and

19 WHEREAS, DPH estimates that there are 1,350 chronically homeless San Franciscans  
20 who access City services; and

21 WHEREAS, Many of these individuals receive federal SSI or VA benefits, benefit  
22 programs that are not locally controlled; and

23 WHEREAS, Local non-profit organizations including the Corporation for Supportive  
24 Housing and the Mental Health Association of San Francisco have significant expertise that  
25 should continue to inform local decision-making; and

1           WHEREAS, The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be guided by sound  
2 policy advice regarding how best to serve this population and how to minimize the impacts of  
3 homelessness on City neighborhoods; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
5 hereby urges the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Corporation for Supportive  
6 Housing and the Mental Health Association of San Francisco, to develop a report addressing  
7 “Comprehensive Strategies to Serve Homeless Individuals with Mental Health Diagnoses,  
8 Substance Abuse Diagnoses and Chronic Medical Conditions”; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges DPH, through its  
10 Community Behavioral Health Services Division and and Housing and Urban Health Division,  
11 to seek input from stakeholders and experts, including neighborhood and business  
12 organizations, the Department of Human Services, non-profit service providers, state and  
13 federal representatives, the San Francisco Police Department and others it deems  
14 appropriate to gain input to recommended policies; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the DPH Director’s report should include, but not be  
16 limited to, the following issues:

- 17           (a)    An overview of existing services provided to this client population;
- 18           (b)    Recommended additional housing and supportive service programs;
- 19           (c)    Federal, state and local funding, including Interagency Council on Homeless  
20 grant funding, State of California Multi-Family Housing Program bond funding, and funding for  
21 supportive services;
- 22           (d)    Shelter and street outreach, including resident referral;
- 23           (e)    Police crisis intervention training and referrals;

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1 (f) State and federal lobbying strategies to increase the level of state and federal  
2 responsibility for mental health and substance abuse care, including institution of mandated  
3 local programs with attached funding streams; and

4 (g) Cost-saving estimates of reducing jail and emergency services as a result of  
5 program implementation; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Director of DPH to  
7 circulate his draft report to City groups that assist in the formulation of local homeless policy,  
8 including, but not limited to, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board and the Supportive  
9 Housing Committee of the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Committee and  
10 urges the Director of DPH to seek a hearing at the San Francisco Health Commission to  
11 obtain public comment on his draft report; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Director of DPH to  
13 submit his report to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors by September 1, 2003.

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