

1 [Urging the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to Deny Formula Retail Food  
2 and Drink Establishments That Do Not Traditionally Sell Alcohol]

3 **Resolution to urge the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to deny**  
4 **alcohol license applications of Formula Retail food and drink establishments that do**  
5 **not traditionally sell alcohol in San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) defines “non-traditional  
8 alcohol retail businesses” as those with Formula Retail Uses as defined in section 303.1 of the  
9 San Francisco Planning Code, that traditionally do not have a sales, service, or consumption  
10 of alcoholic beverage program in San Francisco as part of their business operation and/or that  
11 their existing business model has established an expectation to the public and their customers  
12 that Alcoholic beverages would not be or have not been available; and

13 WHEREAS, The intent of the resolution is for the California Department of Alcoholic  
14 Beverage Control to delay granting alcohol licenses to corporate chain stores and/or  
15 franchises in San Francisco until a public health and safety analysis has been completed and  
16 necessary municipal regulations are put in place; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Alcohol consumption is a major contributor to premature mortality in San  
21 Francisco, especially among males. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)  
22 believes that interventions to avert alcohol-related harms should be taken at the population  
23 level and deserve the same attention that is given to other major risk factors, such as smoking  
24 or obesity; and

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

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

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

9           WHEREAS, Preliminary findings from recent studies conducted by the University of  
10 California San Francisco (UCSF) at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Trauma Center  
11 demonstrate that approximately 8% percent of alcohol-related trauma cases die from their  
12 injuries. Of a sample of 300 moderate-to-severe traumas, 59% occurred in patients with blood  
13 alcohol levels of .08 and above. The study found that patients with a positive blood alcohol  
14 level experienced more severe traumas, and therefore faced a greater risk of death; and,

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

18           WHEREAS, 33% of all non-vehicular accidental death victims had significant levels of  
19 alcohol in their blood; alcohol was a factor in 32.7% of all vehicular fatalities in San Francisco;  
20 alcohol also was a factor in 25% of all suicides and 31.8% of all homicide victims tested by the  
21 SFME; and

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

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1           WHEREAS, Conservative estimates conclude that the City and County of San  
2 Francisco bears the cost of \$17.1 million annually for the medical care of people with alcohol-  
3 related illnesses; alcohol abuse treatment and prevention; alcohol-related emergency medical  
4 transport; as well as disability and death due to alcohol use; and

5           WHEREAS, The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over \$6.7  
6 billion annually; and

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

11           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Prevention Coalition, San Francisco Alcohol Policy  
12 Partnership Working Group, San Francisco Friday Night Live and a broad range of community  
13 leaders support the denial of the non-traditional alcohol licenses based on research and  
14 evidence reviews provided by experts in alcohol prevention from SFPD, UCSF, and SFDPH;  
15 and

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

20           RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 strongly urges the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to deny licenses to non-  
22 traditional alcohol retail businesses in San Francisco; and, be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
24 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the California Department of Alcohol Beverage  
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1 Control, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, and the Office of  
2 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

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