

1 [Recognizing Problem Gambling Awareness Month - March]

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3 **Resolution recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Gambling, in both legal and illegal forms, is becoming more omnipresent
7 in our everyday lives, including through Daily Fantasy Sports, internet casinos, social media
8 games, and sweepstakes cafes; and

9 WHEREAS, Six to eight million Americans, including more than 1.2 million Californians,
10 meet the criteria for problem gambling and, by their gambling behavior, negatively affect the
11 lives of another 48 to 80 million individuals; and

12 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is defined as gambling behavior which causes
13 disruption in any major areas of life: psychological, physical, social, vocational, health,
14 spiritual or emotional; and

15 WHEREAS, Problem gambling (“gambling disorder”) has been classified recently by
16 the American Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the causes and
17 consequences of alcohol and drug dependence; and

18 WHEREAS, Behavioral signs of problem gambling include gambling to escape
19 boredom, pain or loneliness, lying to loved ones to conceal the extent of gambling, needing to
20 gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve excitement, borrowing money to
21 gamble, and trying repeatedly over time to win back money lost; and

22 WHEREAS, Americans gamble more money each year than they spend on groceries,
23 betting upwards of \$900,000,000,000 annually; and

24 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue impacting relationships,
25 families, businesses, and communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Populations at high risk for gambling problems includes seniors, youth,
2 college students, veterans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos/Hispanics and
3 Native Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, Only 15% of problem gamblers ever seek treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, Numerous free resources, including self-help workbooks, phone-based
6 counseling, individual counseling, support group counseling, residential care and a locally-
7 based 24/7 helpline (1-888-968-7888) are now available for problem gamblers and affected
8 individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health – Community Behavioral
10 Health Services (SFPDH–CBHS), in partnership with NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
11 (NICOS), made the City and County of San Francisco one of the first municipalities in the
12 nation to offer a problem gambling prevention program to its residents, beginning in 1998; and

13 WHEREAS, The NICOS problem gambling program model has been replicated
14 nationwide; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
16 unanimously adopted Resolution No. 65-15, declaring the month of March as Problem
17 Gambling Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 recognizes the outreach efforts by SFPDH-CBHS and NICOS to communities struggling with
20 problem gambling; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will continue to
22 support outreach and treatment programs for problem gamblers, in addition to strengthening
23 prevention strategies; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the month of March
2 of every year as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San
3 Francisco.

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