

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: October 2, 2023

To: Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

From:  Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors

Subject: Urging HSH to Fill Vacant Permanent Supportive Housing Units  
(File No. 230950)

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On September 12, 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 432-23, sponsored by Supervisor Dean Preston (File No. 230950, Urging HSH to Fill Vacant Permanent Supportive Housing Units); enacted on September 21, 2023.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your office's information and consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184.

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors; Supervisors Dean Preston, Aaron Peskin, Shamann Walton, Connie Chan, Ahsha Safai, Catherine Stefani, Myrna Melgar, Hillary Ronen  
Dylan Schneider, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing  
Emily Cohen, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing  
Bridget Badasow, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing  
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director  
Susanna Conine-Nakano, Mayor's Office

1 [Urging HSH to Fill Vacant Permanent Supportive Housing Units]  
2

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to**  
4 **fill at least half of the vacant Permanent Supportive Housing units within 90 days and**  
5 **to maintain a vacancy rate no greater than 5% thereafter.**  
6

7 WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) is a proven model to provide  
8 stable housing for people experiencing homelessness, where vulnerable people can tend to  
9 their physical and mental health in a stable environment with support services, which benefits  
10 the whole community; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, there were 7,754 people  
12 experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, consisting of 3,357 people in temporary  
13 shelters and 4,397 people unsheltered, all of whom could benefit from stable, supportive  
14 housing; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s  
16 (“HSH”) Vacancies in Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) dashboard, in August 2023,  
17 there were 1,002 vacancies in PSH, over 10% of the City’s total number of PSH units, with  
18 714 available for referral and 288 “offline” for maintenance, inspection, or other reasons and  
19 not available for referrals; and

20 WHEREAS, Vacancies in Supportive Housing rose sharply in or about 2021 and have  
21 remained high since then, averaging 10% monthly over the last two years; and

22 WHEREAS, HSH states on its website that it has a goal to reduce the vacancy rate to  
23 7%, and that it has implemented a series of policies designed to help reach this goal,  
24 including lowered requirements for documentation for clients to move into housing, adding  
25 new Access Points to increase services to support clients to navigate the housing process,

1 outlining the length of time units can be offline for repairs, and improving the quality of PSH  
2 buildings; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the addition of new policies, San Francisco has continued to  
4 average a 10% vacancy rate for PSH units over the last year; and

5 WHEREAS, There is widespread agreement that vacant PSH units need to be filled  
6 with urgency and that it is unacceptable that the City should continue to have 10% of our  
7 supportive housing portfolio vacant while people continue to experience homelessness, our  
8 shelters continue to be filled to capacity, and PSH providers continue to lose necessary  
9 revenue, yet despite this agreement in principle, vacancy numbers remain high; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds it unacceptable that our City  
12 continues to have such a high vacancy rate in supportive housing at a time when so many  
13 people are experiencing homelessness and our shelters are filled to capacity; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors urges HSH to act with urgency to  
15 fill vacant PSH units and reduce the number of vacant PSH units by 50% within 90 days; and,  
16 be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to ensure that the  
18 vacancy rate in PSH does not average more than 5% going forward; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to report to the  
20 Board of Supervisors on its progress filling vacant PSH units and reducing the vacancy rate  
21 as described herein no later than 120 days after the date of this Resolution.  
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23  
24  
25



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 230950

Date Passed: September 12, 2023

Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to fill at least half of the vacant Permanent Supportive Housing units within 90 days and to maintain a vacancy rate no greater than 5% thereafter.

September 12, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 230950

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/12/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

09/21/2023

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

09/21/2023

Date