

1 [Urging the Development of Proactive Citywide Trauma Response to Gun Violence]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department**
4 **of Emergency Management, Mayor's Office of Violence Prevention, Fire Department,**
5 **Police Department, Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families, Department on**
6 **the Status of Women, other relevant City departments, and community partners to**
7 **create and adopt a publicly-available protocol to respond proactively to instances of**
8 **gun-related community trauma.**
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10 WHEREAS, San Francisco continues to experience gun violence in our communities;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Gun violence disproportionately impacts low-income Black and brown
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Gun violence has deeply traumatic effects on direct victims, witnesses,
15 and nearby community members in serious and lasting ways; and

16 WHEREAS, Communities are strongest when they have resilience, self-determination,
17 and resources; and

18 WHEREAS, Community trauma can erode a community's capacity to thrive, address
19 issues, and exercise its collective efficacy; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), community violence
21 has wide-reaching effects and can cause significant physical injuries and mental health
22 conditions such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, communities experiencing violence may lead to
24 increased risk of developing chronic diseases because concerns about violence may prevent
25 them from walking, bicycling, and using parks or other recreational spaces; and

1 WHEREAS, Communities deserve to feel safe and, when an incident occurs that
2 erodes their sense of safety, deserve to be supported; and

3 WHEREAS, Mental health resources can be instrumental in healing communities that
4 experience gun violence; and

5 WHEREAS, San Francisco has practices and partnerships in place to ensure that
6 direct victims of gun violence and their immediate families can get support, services,
7 counseling, and other resources to aid in their recovery; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco has trauma response resources available through its
9 Comprehensive Crisis Services team and through community-based organizations serving
10 high-risk communities; and

11 WHEREAS, No protocol currently exists to ensure that the City reaches out to affected
12 community members other than immediate victim(s) or their family members to connect them
13 to available trauma counseling resources in a timely manner; and

14 WHEREAS, Community members experiencing trauma after gun violence in their
15 neighborhoods should not have to go out of their way to receive information about available
16 resources or trauma counseling services; and

17 WHEREAS, A proactive trauma response would help remove existing barriers and
18 ensure that communities that have experienced gun violence can be connected to trauma
19 counseling resources they need; and

20 WHEREAS, Studies show that trauma counseling, in connection with other community
21 resources, can help prevent further violence; and

22 WHEREAS, The city has protocols in place for community support after traumatic
23 events in other contexts, such as the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's
24 response after fatal traffic collisions and the San Francisco Police Department's town halls
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1 after police shootings, which may offer guidance regarding coordination, outreach, and
2 response after incidents of gun violence; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Public Health, in
4 consultation with the Department of Emergency Management, Mayor's Office of Violence
5 Prevention, Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Youth, and Their Families,
6 Department on the Status of Women, other relevant City departments, and community
7 partners to create a proposed protocol and implementation plan to respond proactively with
8 information and connections to resources following instances of gun-related community
9 trauma; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the proposed protocol should include, at minimum, the
11 following:

- 12 1. Within 48 hours of the incident of gun violence, outreach through flyering, phone
13 calls, or other means of reaching people within a one-block radius from the
14 incident to notify community members of available trauma counseling resources;
- 15 2. Within one week of the incident of gun violence, a requirement that City
16 agencies or partners hold at least one well-publicized outreach event to offer
17 counseling or other services;
- 18 3. A clear delineation of duties between departments, service providers, and any
19 other City-affiliated agencies as needed to implement the protocol; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the proposed protocols
21 to be filed with the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of the passage of this Resolution and
22 be made publicly available for community input; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges a public hearing on the
24 resulting proposed protocol be held within 60 days of its filing with the Board.