

1 [Recognizing Problem Gambling Awareness Month - March 2018]

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3 **Resolution recognizing March 2018 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City**
4 **and 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, sports betting, and sweepstakes cafes; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2016 Americans lost nearly \$117 billion at casinos, more than any other
10 country; and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Americans gamble more money each year than they spend on groceries,
25 betting upwards of \$900 billion annually; and

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

3 WHEREAS, The estimated national social cost to families and communities due to
4 bankruptcy, divorce, job loss, home loss, and criminal justice costs associated with problem
5 gambling is \$6.7 billion each year; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Numerous free resources, including self-help workbooks, phone-based
11 counseling, individual counseling, support group counseling, residential care and a locally-
12 based helpline (1-888-968-7888) are now available for problem gamblers and affected
13 individuals; and

14 WHEREAS, 2018 marks the 14th consecutive year of a National Problem Gambling
15 Awareness Month according to the National Council on Problem Gambling; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The NICOS problem gambling program model has been replicated
21 nationwide; and

22 WHEREAS, Since 2014, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
23 Francisco has unanimously adopted a resolution annually declaring the month of March as
24 Problem Gambling Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it
25

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 recognizes the outreach efforts by SFPDPH-CBHS and NICOS to communities struggling with
3 problem gambling; and, be it

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

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the month of March
8 2018 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.