

[Declaring A Health Emergency]

**CONCURRING WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
TO DECLARE A HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO.**

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health is experiencing drastic budget reductions for fiscal year 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has consistently ranked amongst the top five cities with the highest cost of living and the highest commercial and residential rents in the country; and

WHEREAS, Given the exorbitant cost of living and skyrocketing rents in San Francisco, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for health care and mental health service providers to attract and retain qualified, professional staff; and

WHEREAS, The combination of spiraling cost of living and the proposed health budget cuts could potentially compromise the effectiveness and success of long-term programs such as staff and program cut backs well as permanent discontinuation of vital services and staff positions; and

WHEREAS, Once treatment and residential programs are suspended, either temporarily or permanently, it is extremely difficult to replace those with equivalent programs; and

WHEREAS, The decrease in revenues projected by DPH for fiscal year 2000-01 are largely due to federal and state governments shifting costs to local government by disallowing Medicare and Medi-Cal claims as well as various other cuts in the national and state health budget; and

WHEREAS, The housing crisis in San Francisco is inextricably linked to the current health care crisis in which individuals who are unable to retain affordable housing are more likely to be unable to stabilize and improve their medical and mental health conditions; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Katz, Bierman

1 WHEREAS, Because a high number of San Francisco citizens are uninsured or
2 underinsured, private companies are unwilling to provide adequate health coverage, thus,
3 leaving the public health system to provide health care services at public expense; and

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health in general, and the Community Mental
5 Health Services, in particular, have made significant strides forward in the past two years in
6 implementing cost-effective measures and improved treatment standards, such as the
7 ACCESS line, the Single Point of Responsibility Programs as well as increased utilization of
8 state-of-the-art medications; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 8, 2000 the San Francisco Mental Health Board passed
10 resolution MHB-00-08 declaring a health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Mental Health Board further asserted that local governments as well
13 as the community has the moral duty to care for those citizens who are ill, suffering, in trouble,
14 and in need; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mental Health Board further emphasized that a strong and effective
16 public health system directly benefits all neighborhoods and economic sectors of the
17 community; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 concurs with the findings of the Mental Health Board to declare Health Emergency in the City
20 and County of San Francisco; and

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and endorses the San
22 Francisco Health Commission and the Department of Public Health's strategic commitment to
23 focusing on prevention, community based services, and sub-acute services in order to
24 decrease the City's dependency for more expensive emergency services ; and be it
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges, in the strongest possible
2 terms, that the Mayor of San Francisco as well as the Health Commission:

- 3 1. Declare a Health Emergency in the City and County of San Francisco
- 4 2. View this emergency from the larger perspective that the current funding crisis was
5 not created by the Department of Public Health, but by larger political and economic
6 forces
- 7 3. View this emergency from the larger perspective that San Francisco as a
8 community clearly has the financial capacity to adequately care for those in need
- 9 4. Honor the economic reality that cutting between \$15-40 million from the Health
10 Department budge will indeed cause a significant reduction in services at a time
11 when San Francisco citizens are already being turned away from our system
12 without being treated or adequately served; and
- 13 5. Take appropriate and necessary actions to increase the City revenues in a fair and
14 progressive manner, close any existing loopholes and insure that the City is
15 generating full value on property assessments, licensing fees, and contracts;

16 and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors supports the Health
18 Department's request for an additional funding from the General Fund, and urges the Mayor
19 and the Health Commission to take the necessary appropriate measures to accommodate, to
20 fullest extent possible, any additional funding requests.
21
22
23
24

25 SUPERVISORS AMMIANO, Becerra



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 001280

Date Passed:

Resolution concurring with the findings of the San Francisco Mental Health Board to declare a health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco.

July 17, 2000 Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE AGENDA

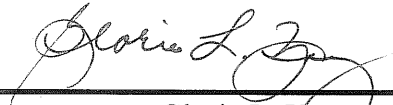
July 17, 2000 Board of Supervisors — REFERRED: Finance and Labor Committee

August 21, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 001280

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on August 21, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



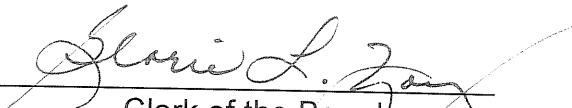
Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

September 1, 2000

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, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.



Clerk of the Board

File No.
001280