

1 [Supporting the Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020]

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3 **Resolution supporting the federal Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020 and**
4 **calling on San Francisco’s federal legislators to vote in support of the bill.**

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6 WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) first appeared in December 2019 and has
7 spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared
8 the outbreak a global pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, San Francisco Mayor London Breed declared a
10 state of emergency to ramp up the city’s efforts to prepare for and respond to local cases of
11 coronavirus, and, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of
12 emergency to help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco and California have each issued stay-at-home orders to
14 slow the spread and save lives, with the San Francisco Health Officer issuing order C19-07,
15 ordering residents to shelter-in-place and cease non-essential activities as of March 17, 2020,
16 and California Governor Gavin Newsom issuing Executive Order N-33-20 on following on
17 March 19, 2020, ordering residents to remain in their homes except for essential activities;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Closing non-essential businesses and ceasing non-essential activities -
20 while instrumental in protecting public health - has had devastating economic repercussions,
21 with a predicted loss of more than 800,000 Bay Area jobs by May 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor London Breed has ordered a moratorium on
23 residential and commercial evictions for nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19 loss of income,
24 but renters are still obligated to pay landlords; and

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1 WHEREAS, California Governor Gavin Newsom negotiated an agreement with some
2 banks to consider forbearance on payments due on residential mortgages; however, it is
3 limited to voluntarily participating banks and offers no guarantees of successful workouts for
4 individual borrowers; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly one-third of all renters nationally didn't pay any of their April rent
6 during the first week of the month, according to data from the National Multifamily Housing
7 Council; and

8 WHEREAS, Retaining the obligation to pay rent or mortgage would mean that those
9 who defer payments will accumulate significant personal debt that they cannot pay, opening
10 the possibility of mass evictions and foreclosures; and

11 WHEREAS, On April 10, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to adopt
12 Resolution No. 147-20, sponsored by Supervisor Hillary Ronen, with co-sponsors Matt Haney,
13 Dean Preston, Shamann Walton, Gordon Mar, Sandra Lee Fewer, Aaron Peskin, Rafael
14 Mandelman, and Norman Yee, calling for an immediate moratorium on rent and mortgage
15 payments; and

16 WHEREAS, On April 17, 2020, Representative Ilhan Omar announced new legislation
17 entitled the Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020 ("the Act") co-sponsored by
18 Democratic Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY), Rashida Tlaib (MI), Pramila
19 Jayapal (WA), Mark Pocan (WI), Ayanna Pressley (MA), Veronica Escobar (TX), Jesús
20 García (IL.) and Grace Meng (NY); and

21 WHEREAS, The Act would cancel rents and home mortgage payments for the duration
22 of the pandemic, with no accumulation of debt for renters or homeowners and no negative
23 impact on credit rating or rental history; and

24 WHEREAS, The Act would establish a fund to provide relief for landlords and
25 mortgage-holders under specific circumstances to cover losses from the cancelled payments;

1 additionally, the Act would create a fund to support the purchase of rental properties by
2 nonprofits, cooperatives, community land trusts, and public entities for the purpose of adding
3 to protected affordable housing stock; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the Rent and
5 Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020, and commends Representative Omar for sponsoring this
6 essential legislation; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco calls on San Francisco representative House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to add herself
9 as a co-sponsor of the Act; and for Speaker Pelosi, Representative Jackie Speier and
10 Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris to support and assist in passing the Act; and,
11 be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
13 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this Resolution to Representative Nancy
14 Pelosi, Representative Jackie Speier, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Kamala Harris.

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