

1 [Ratifying the County Health Officer’s Declaration of a Local Health Emergency Regarding  
2 Monkeypox Virus Outbreak]

3 **Motion ratifying the San Francisco Health Officer’s August 1, 2022, Declaration of Local**  
4 **Health Emergency regarding the outbreak of the Monkeypox virus.**

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6 WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code, Section 101080, authorizes the local  
7 health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer’s jurisdiction whenever  
8 the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat to the  
9 public health due to the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On June 3, 2022, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (“DPH”)  
12 reported the first known probable case of monkeypox in a San Francisco resident, a number  
13 that has since increased to 305 probable and confirmed cases in San Francisco residents as  
14 of July 29, 2022, indicating ongoing community spread of the monkeypox virus; and

15 WHEREAS, DPH has been closely monitoring the appearance and spread of  
16 monkeypox in San Francisco, making it a high public health priority and devoting substantial  
17 resources to increasing testing and vaccination capacity, disseminating information, joining  
18 the Mayor of San Francisco and other elected officials in advocating for increased vaccine  
19 supply from the federal and state governments, and partnering with healthcare providers, non-  
20 profit organizations, the LGBTQ+ and community members to educate residents and to  
21 reduce the impact of the monkeypox outbreak in San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, On July 19, 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a  
23 resolution urging the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the  
24 Department of Health and Human Services to accelerate the purchasing and distribution of  
25 monkeypox vaccines, prioritize vaccine access for populations at the highest risk of

1 contracting the virus, and eliminate administrative barriers to treatment in light of the growing  
2 outbreak; and

3 WHEREAS, The monkeypox outbreak in San Francisco is causing substantial health  
4 impacts on San Francisco residents, with some cases resulting in serious medical issues,  
5 including, but not limited to, severe pain, difficulty eating, and the potential for scarring of the  
6 skin; and

7 WHEREAS, The number of actual or suspected monkeypox cases in San Francisco  
8 places San Francisco at the highest rate of infection per capita (along with Los Angeles) in  
9 California and the second highest in the United States, meaning that San Francisco needs  
10 additional vaccine allocations as soon as possible to address the risk here; and

11 WHEREAS, It is imperative that DPH have all tools available to augment outreach and,  
12 as appropriate, provide treatment to all San Francisco residents who are potentially impacted  
13 by monkeypox, including those who have historically had limited or restricted access to  
14 healthcare and health education, to help residents protect themselves and others against  
15 infection by monkeypox and manage monkeypox infection if it occurs; and

16 WHEREAS, On August 1, 2022, the San Francisco Health Officer (“Health Officer”)  
17 declared a Local Health Emergency regarding San Francisco’s monkeypox virus outbreak,  
18 based on the conclusion that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from  
19 the introduction of the monkeypox virus in San Francisco necessitating the declaration of a  
20 local health emergency;

21 WHEREAS, By declaring a local health emergency, the Health Officer activates the  
22 provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 8659 of the  
23 California Government Code, and as otherwise provided for by law; and

24 WHEREAS, Under Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, a local  
25 health emergency declared by the Health Officer may remain in effect for up to seven days

1 but can continue beyond that period if the Board of Supervisors ratifies the declaration; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3           MOVED, That San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the Health Officer's  
4 Declaration of Local Health Emergency dated August 1, 2022, and that the Local Health  
5 Emergency shall continue beyond August 8, 2022, until, in consultation with the Health  
6 Officer, the Board of Supervisors proclaims the Local Health Emergency is terminated.

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