

1 [Ensuring Safe, Affordable, and Quality Patient Care.]

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3 **Resolution urging all relevant City agencies to uphold and strengthen current medical**  
4 **cannabis laws, and regulatory procedures that ensures quality care of patients,**  
5 **protects residents, and provides a true benefit to the community, and discourages**  
6 **business practices that threaten local permitted medical cannabis dispensary**  
7 **operators.**

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9 WHEREAS, San Francisco and the Bay Area are the birthplace of compassionate use  
10 and have fought hard to develop a system that cares for patients, protects residents and  
11 provides a true benefit to the community; and,

12 WHEREAS, In 2005, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Article 33 of the  
13 SF Health Code which established regulatory procedures for patient collectives and  
14 cooperatives to obtain operating permits from the Health Department; and,

15 WHEREAS, The process for becoming a new dispensing collective operator in San  
16 Francisco involves review and oversight by the City's Planning, Building Inspection, Public  
17 Works, and Health, Fire and Police Departments along with the Public Utilities Commission,  
18 Board of Appeals and the Mayor's Office on Disability; and,

19 WHEREAS, Every licensed dispensing collective operator in San Francisco has been  
20 vetted by various City agencies to ensure that they will comply with all the requirements of the  
21 Health and Planning Codes, and operators submit themselves to hearings before the Planning  
22 Commission and Health Department to allow the City and residents to judge whether each  
23 operator will maintain the level of excellence and patient service expected in San Francisco;  
24 and,

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1           WHEREAS, San Francisco was among the first cities in California to comprehensively  
2 regulate medical cannabis dispensing as a public health and land use issue while many other  
3 cities turned a blind eye to the issue, leading to a proliferation of problems in places like Los  
4 Angeles; and,

5           WHEREAS, Cities like Los Angeles that have become overrun with unregulated  
6 dispensaries are now rushing to close them in an effort led by LA District Attorney Steve  
7 Cooley (also a candidate for Attorney General) who, according to a Nov. 18, 2009 article in  
8 the Los Angeles Times, believes that “dispensaries are breaking the law by accepting money  
9 in exchange for marijuana and promised to step up felony prosecutions”; and,

10           WHEREAS, DA Cooley’s war on dispensaries in Los Angeles is creating a rush by that  
11 City’s dispensary owners who are looking North to purchase buildings occupied by San  
12 Francisco collective or cooperative operators and force them out; and,

13           WHEREAS, On April 6, 2009, San Francisco’s Zoning Administrator issued a letter of  
14 determination for 1933 Mission Street declaring that a “‘change in ownership’ [of a medical  
15 cannabis dispensary] will not trigger further review from the Planning Department or public  
16 hearings before the Planning Commission,” though change in ownership applications must  
17 still be reviewed by the Health Department; and,

18           WHEREAS, In 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No.  
19 623-07 (File #07-1505), urging medical cannabis dispensaries to implement compassionate  
20 care programs to serve low and no-income patients, cementing the City’s reputation as a  
21 leader for providing care programs to relieve the suffering of qualified, income-challenged  
22 patients and; and,

23           WHEREAS, The Medical Cannabis Act of 2005 was intended to protect patients and  
24 neighboring residents by allowing the City to evaluate dispensary operator applicants to  
25 ensure that they share the City’s vision of compassionate care; now, therefore, be it,

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urges all relevant City departments,  
2 including the Public Health, City Planning, Public Works, Fire and Police Departments along  
3 with the Public Utilities Commission, Board of Appeals and the Mayor’s Office on Disability,  
4 uphold and strengthen current medical cannabis laws and regulatory procedures that ensures  
5 quality care of patients, protects residents and provides a true benefit to the community and  
6 discourages business practices that threaten local permitted medical cannabis dispensary  
7 operators.

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