

1 [Urging Walgreens to Reconsider Store Closures in San Francisco]

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3 **Resolution urging Walgreens to reconsider store closures in San Francisco and to**
4 **prioritize alternative solutions to maintain their presence in San Francisco, particularly**
5 **in vulnerable neighborhoods that face significant challenges in accessing healthcare**
6 **and essential services.**
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8 WHEREAS, Walgreens has been a vital part of San Francisco's retail and healthcare
9 landscape, providing essential goods, pharmacy services, and health support to the city's
10 diverse communities for decades; and

11 WHEREAS, Walgreens is the one of the largest retail pharmacy chains with
12 approximately 8,500 locations across the United States and an additional 4,000 locations
13 across the Europe, and Latin America; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2024, Walgreens filled about 796 million prescriptions in the United
15 States, including vaccinations; and

16 WHEREAS, According to Walgreen's Fiscal Year 2024 Earnings, 2024 sales increased
17 6.2% to up to \$147.7 billion USD covering retail pharmacy sales in the United States,
18 international retail, and wholesale operations compared to 2023; and

19 WHEREAS, Walgreens recently announced 1,200 nationwide closures over the next
20 three fiscal years due to profitability challenges, including stores unable to cover the costs of
21 leases; 12 stores in San Francisco are scheduled to close by the end of February 2025; and

22 WHEREAS, The list of planned closures include: 1201 Taraval Street, 3201 Divisadero
23 Street, 1363 Divisadero Street, 825 Market Street, 1750 Noriega Street, 1524 Polk Street,
24 1301 Franklin Street, 1189 Potrero Avenue, 135 Powell Street, 1630 Ocean Avenue, 5280
25 Geary Boulevard, and 5300 3rd Street; and

1 WHEREAS, The planned closures of Walgreens stores in San Francisco
2 disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, low-income residents, including seniors,
3 individuals with disabilities, and residents of neighborhoods with limited access to alternative
4 pharmacy services; and

5 WHEREAS, These closures exacerbate existing challenges in neighborhoods already
6 facing barriers to basic services; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the study “Association Between Pharmacy Closures and
8 Adherence to Cardiovascular Medications Among Older US Adults,” published on the
9 National Library of Medicine, pharmacy closures lead to health risks associated with older
10 adults failing to take medication; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the study, “Assessment of Pharmacy Closures in the United
12 States from 2009 Through 2015,” published on the Journal of American Medical Association,
13 found that pharmacies at greatest risk for closures are those with large customer base on
14 public insurance, which have lower reimbursement rates than private plans; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Community Pharmacists Association found that the
16 expansion of large drug retail chains have contributed to the decline and closure of
17 independent pharmacies, reducing competition, and limiting options for consumers; and

18 WHEREAS, The closure of these stores will exacerbate existing inequities in
19 healthcare access and will create pharmacy deserts, leaving many San Franciscans without
20 convenient access to medications and essential health products; and

21 WHEREAS, The closures will have significant economic and social impacts, including
22 job losses for Walgreens employees and diminished vitality of neighborhood commercial
23 corridors; and

1 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes the importance of
2 maintaining accessible healthcare services and retail options as part of its commitment to
3 equity, public health, and community well-being; and

4 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco must commit to addressing the
5 needs of all residents, particularly those in historically underserved communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Walgreens has previously demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with
7 communities to address their concerns and adapt business strategies in a way that supports
8 local needs; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly urges Walgreens
10 to reconsider its decision to close the affected stores and prioritize alternative solutions to
11 maintain their presence in San Francisco, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods that face
12 significant challenges in accessing healthcare and essential services; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on
14 Walgreens to engage collaboratively with city officials, community leaders, and impacted
15 residents to develop strategies that sustain pharmacy access and support neighborhood
16 vitality; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
18 the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this resolution to the leadership of Walgreens
19 Boots Alliance, Inc., including the Walgreens CEO, and strongly urges them to act swiftly to
20 reconsider this matter to prevent disruptions to community health and well-being.