

FILE NO. 991429

RESOLUTION NO. 868-99

1 [SRO Hotel Task Force]

2 **ESTABLISHING A SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO) HOTEL SAFETY AND**  
3 **STABILIZATION TASK FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND**  
4 **THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND SETTING FORTH THE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES**  
5 **OF THE TASK FORCE.**

6 WHEREAS, Since 1998, over 400 low income, single room occupancy (SRO) units  
7 were eliminated from the housing market due to fires and over 900 SRO units have been lost  
8 due to fire since 1988; and

9 WHEREAS, On December 22, 1998, 90 units of low-income units were lost at the  
10 Leland Hotel due to fire, on December 29, 1998, the Thor Hotel fire displaced 52 tenants, on  
11 February 12, 1999 the Hartland Hotel fire left 150 people homeless on March 2; 1999, the  
12 Park Hotel caught on fire resulting a lost of 100 rental units; and

13 WHEREAS, In order to prevent further loss of low income housing and to enhance the  
14 City and County of San Francisco's Emergency Response system, the Board of Supervisors,  
15 the Mayor's Office, City and County of San Francisco Departments, survivors of SRO fires, the  
16 American Red Cross Bay Area and other community-based organizations convened to  
17 formulate a strategic plan of action; and

18 WHEREAS, This coalition began meeting in February of 1999 and drafted the  
19 "Emergency Response Policy Coordinating Committee Report to the San Francisco Board of  
20 Supervisors;" and

21 WHEREAS, One of the policy recommendations of the report urged the San Francisco  
22 Board of Supervisors to create a Task Force comprised of survivors of SRO fires, community  
23 based organizations, the American Red Cross <sup>Bay Area</sup> and various City departments to develop further  
24 policy recommendations; now, therefore, be it

25

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
2 hereby creates an advisory task force which shall be called the Single Room Occupancy  
3 (SRO) Hotel Safety and Stabilization Task Force; and

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall include:

- 5 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency  
6 Services,
- 7 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of Public Health,
- 8 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of Human Services,
- 9 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of the San Francisco Redevelopment  
10 Agency,
- 11 • one (1) member appointed by the City Attorney from the City Attorney's Code  
12 Enforcement Task Force,
- 13 • one (1) member appointed by the Fire Chief,
- 14 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of Department of Building Inspection,
- 15 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing,
- 16 • one (1) member appointed by the Director of Administrative Services,
- 17 • two (2) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors representing owners  
18 and managers of SRO hotels,
- 19 • four (4) members appointed by the Board of Supervisors who are either SRO  
20 tenants or representatives from a community based organization with a  
21 significant focus on educating SRO tenants about the risk of fire, and further that  
22 each appointee shall represent one and only one of the following neighborhoods:  
23 Chinatown, Mission, South of Market Area and the Tenderloin,

- 1           • one (1) position shall be permanently designated to the American Red Cross Bay  
2           Area and that member shall be appointed by the disaster director the American  
3           Red Cross Bay Area or his or her designated representative; and be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SRO Hotel Safety and Stabilization Task Force shall  
5           monitor and make policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and draft an initial  
6           progress report by January 1, 2000 to followed by a comprehensive report within one year of  
7           the formal establishment of the Task Force; and be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SRO Task Force should address the following five  
9           major areas of concerns in addition to any further issues that may arise in the future:

10          A. Emergency Response and Follow Through

- 11           1. Is the coordination between the various City departments, the American Red  
12           Cross Bay Area and community based organizations adequate during a fire  
13           response?  
14           2. Are fire survivors being tracked to make sure they don't become homeless and  
15           to insure they are assisted in locating permanent housing?  
16           3. Are the disaster caused needs of fire survivors being met after the outbreak of  
17           fire?  
18           4. Is the current voucher system adequate to address the housing needs of fire  
19           survivors?  
20           5. Are there ways to assist fire survivors in moving and temporarily storing their  
21           belongings?  
22           6. Are special needs of fire survivors being met such as bilingual services, mental  
23           health counseling, drug rehabilitation counseling, etc.?  
24           7. Are there ways that insurance protection can be made available to SRO tenants  
25           in the event of a fire?

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B. Fire Mitigation Efforts

1. Are fire prevention education outreach efforts adequate and are all sectors of the SRO tenant population being adequately notified?
2. How can the City assist and expedite the implementation of fire mitigation measures such installation of sprinklers, wire mesh screening around trash depositories, installation of fire extinguishers, and other fire prevention measures?
3. Are there ways to facilitate better coordination of SRO hotel inspection efforts between the Fire Department, the Department of Building Inspection, the Code Enforcement Task Force, and the Department of Public Health?
4. Should a special multi-departmental inspection team be created for specific districts?
5. Have the various aforementioned City departments, community based organizations in the four main districts and SRO tenant organizations established communication and a working relationship?
6. Has the creation and implementation of pilot programs been carried out in a timely manner and how effective have they been in meeting their objectives?

C. Structural Rehabilitation of Fire Damaged Buildings

1. Should the City invoke eminent domain to get fire damaged buildings back on line?
2. Is it feasible to propose a bond measure to finance the rehabilitation of fire damaged buildings?

- 1           3. Are there other incentives that the City can offer to encourage hotel owners to  
2           get their fire damaged property back on line?  
3

4           D. Long Term Tenant Stabilization

- 5           1. What are some the ways that the City and community based organizations can  
6           assist fire survivors in finding permanent housing?  
7           2. How can the City create and maintain low income housing units?  
8           3. Is it feasible for the City to provide temporary long term rental subsidies for fire  
9           survivors until their personal lives and employment situation are stabilized?  
10          4. What are measures that can instituted to instill confidence and cooperation  
11          between and amongst tenants, SRO hotel owners and managers, City  
12          departments and community based organizations.

13          E. Investigation and Prosecution of Tenant Rights, Building Code, and Fire Safety  
14          violations;

- 15          1. How are the various City departments actively investigating and prosecuting  
16          tenancy, building code, and fire safety violations?  
17          2. How will the City respond to non-compliant and uncooperative hotel owners and  
18          hotel managers?

19          and be it

20          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force will issue a comprehensive report  
21          detailing progress in the five focus areas one year after its formation; and be it

22          FURTHER RESOLVED, That after the lapse of one full year, the Board of Supervisors  
23          will determine whether to continue the Task Force for an additional period of time, or whether  
24          to sunset the Task Force.

25          **SUPERVISORS AMMIANO**



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

### Resolution

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**File Number:** 991429

**Date Passed:**

Resolution establishing a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotel Safety and Stabilization Task Force to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors and setting forth the membership and duties of the task force.

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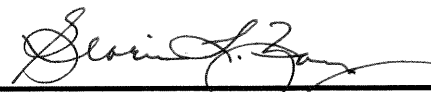
September 27, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Brown

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 27, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



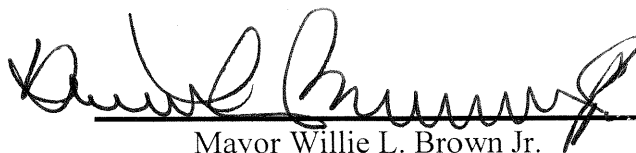
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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

OCT - 8 1999

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Date Approved



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Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.