

1 [Special Court and Public Reports Regarding “Quality of Life” Offenses.]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Superior Court to establish a Special Court to**
4 **hear “Quality of Life” offenses, the District Attorney to assign Assistant District**
5 **Attorneys to appear at the hearings or to delegate this responsibility to the City**
6 **Attorney’s Office, and the San Francisco Superior Court to provide the District Attorney**
7 **with information about court proceedings involving “Quality of Life” offenses.**

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9 WHEREAS, Those persons who suffer from mental illness, substance abuse,
10 homelessness and related problems may engage in conduct that causes them to be cited for
11 a criminal offense; and

12 WHEREAS, These offenses adversely affect the quality of life for those who live and
13 work in the areas where the offenses occur; and

14 WHEREAS, When the persons who commit “Quality of Life” offenses come into contact
15 with the Court system, that system often provides no meaningful assistance to help them
16 resolve the problems that gave rise to the unlawful conduct; and

17 WHEREAS, Experience shows that Special Courts created to provide services to target
18 populations, such as Drug Courts, can be effective in helping persons address the root
19 causes of their behavior; and

20 WHEREAS, The establishment of a Special Court to hear “Quality of Life” offenses
21 could provide an effective means for the Court, those who engage in “Quality of Life” offenses,
22 and other participants in the criminal justice system to focus on the conditions that led to the
23 unlawful conduct and the availability of resources to assist this target population to change
24 those conditions; and

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1 WHEREAS, A Special Court established to hear “Quality of Life” offenses would focus
2 its attention on guiding defendants in a manner that allows them to avoid incarceration and
3 participate in rehabilitative programs; and

4 WHEREAS, A Special Court established to hear “Quality of Life” offenses would
5 consider certain violations of the Municipal Code and the California Penal Code that are
6 punishable as infractions, other than those related to traffic or Department of Motor Vehicle
7 offenses; and

8 WHEREAS, The offenses would include drinking in public, trespassing, aggressive
9 solicitation, peddling without a permit, camping in the park and unlawfully sleeping in the park;
10 and, in addition, any offenses hereafter enacted that would make it unlawful to urinate or
11 defecate in public; and

12 WHEREAS, Providing easily accessible information that tracks the number of citations
13 issued by the San Francisco Police Department for “Quality of Life” offenses and the outcome
14 of proceedings involving those citations would assist City departments and the public to
15 assess the effectiveness of the City’s policies involving those who commit “Quality of Life”
16 offenses; and

17 WHEREAS, Information on the outcome of proceedings would include the number of
18 persons cited who paid bail, the number who failed to pay bail or appear in Court, the number
19 who appeared in Court, and the outcome of Court proceedings; and

20 WHEREAS, The City should make this information accessible whether or not the San
21 Francisco Superior Court establishes a Special Court to hear “Quality of Life” offenses; and

22 WHEREAS, The District Attorney is the appropriate officer to gather and publish this
23 information; and

24 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Superior Court has some of this information and can
25 make it available to the District Attorney; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Superior Court to
2 establish a Special Court to hear "Quality of Life" offenses; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Board urges the District Attorney to assign Assistant
4 District Attorneys to represent the People at the Special Court hearings or to delegate this
5 responsibility to the City Attorney's Office; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the San Francisco Superior Court to
7 provide information to the District Attorney about the outcome of court proceedings involving
8 persons cited for "Quality of Life" offenses so that the District Attorney may include this
9 information in monthly reports made accessible to the public.

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