

1 [Urging Urgent Homelessness Policy Changes]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to**  
4 **implement urgent policy changes to serve pregnant individuals, families living in**  
5 **Single Room Occupancy units or doubled-up families; and urging the Department to**  
6 **pursue additional policy changes in coordination with the Board of Supervisors.**

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8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco’s definition of homelessness  
9 includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter  
10 designated to provide a temporary living arrangement; with a primary nighttime residence that  
11 is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping  
12 accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train  
13 station, airport, or camping ground; “doubled-up” in the homes of family or friends; staying in  
14 jails, hospitals, or rehabilitation facilities; and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO)  
15 units; and,

16 WHEREAS, The City’s annual homelessness Point-in-Time Count uses the federal  
17 U.S. Housing and Urban Development or HUD definition of homelessness in this Count, which  
18 does not include persons who are “doubled-up” in the homes of family or friends; staying in  
19 jails, hospitals or rehabilitation facilities; and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO);  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Historically, the City has made an effort to include individuals in these  
22 living situations by surveying known jails, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities and incorporating  
23 San Francisco Unified School District data to identify individuals believed to otherwise be  
24 homeless and has included this data in an Appendix to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count, but has  
25 not included this data in the body of the report due to an updated methodology; and,

1           WHEREAS, Using the HUD methodology, the 2019 Point-in-Time Count of the  
2 homeless population in San Francisco revealed a 17% increase in homelessness from 2017  
3 to 2019; and the San Francisco methodology revealed a 30% increase from 2017 to 2019;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) has  
6 responded with strategic investments in problem-solving and shelter, including for the growing  
7 population of individuals living in their vehicles; and

8           WHEREAS, The homelessness crisis in San Francisco necessitates additional urgent  
9 action and policy changes at times to respond to changing conditions on the ground and  
10 within the population of individuals struggling with homelessness; and

11           WHEREAS, The number of unsheltered families has remained relatively stable, unlike  
12 other subpopulations counted in the semi-annual Point-in-Time Count; and

13           WHEREAS, The 2019 Point-in-Time Count identified 612 persons in 201 families  
14 experiencing homelessness, like the 601 persons in 190 families identified in 2017; and

15           WHEREAS, Data from the National 2017 Point-in-Time Count suggests that nationwide  
16 33% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families, of whom 90% were  
17 sheltered; and

18           WHEREAS, The official Point-in-Time Count does not account for all homeless families  
19 due in large part to the fact that many families’ condition of homelessness is not readily  
20 detectable or visible, and because the Point-in-Time Count excludes data on families living in  
21 SRO units or doubled-up households, meaning a household having one or more adults in  
22 addition to the head of household and spouse or partner, such as an adult child living at  
23 home, two related or unrelated families residing together, or a parent living with an adult child;  
24 and

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1           WHEREAS, According to the most recent data, in 2014, the San Francisco Unified  
2 School District reported that approximately 60% of homeless students were living in doubled-  
3 up households; and

4           WHEREAS, According to the most recent SRO Families Report in 2015, 699  
5 households with minor children were residing in SROs; and

6           WHEREAS, As of May 2019, the number of homeless students reported by the San  
7 Francisco Unified School District had reached 2,293; and

8           WHEREAS, Children in families experiencing homelessness, including those in SROs  
9 and living in doubled-up conditions, face increased incidences of illness and are more likely to  
10 have emotional and behavioral problems than children with stable living accommodations; and

11           WHEREAS, Currently, families living in SROs or in doubled-up housing situations do  
12 not meet the eligibility criteria that determines a household's eligibility for shelter, housing, or  
13 other services through the City's Family Coordinated Entry System unless they have to leave  
14 their housing unit immediately or have been asked to leave within the next 14 days and have  
15 nowhere else to go; and

16           WHEREAS, By revising the intake forms and questionnaires at access points, the City  
17 could qualify these families for eligibility and equitably assess their needs and vulnerability;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, These changes would also ensure that the aggregate needs of all  
20 members of a household are assessed and factored into the family's overall prioritization  
21 score, as opposed to just the needs of the head-of-household which currently determines an  
22 entire family's prioritization score; and

23           WHEREAS, Current policy states that pregnant individuals can only access the  
24 homeless family shelter and services system through the City's Family Coordinated Entry  
25 system upon arriving at the third trimester of pregnancy; and

1           WHEREAS, The third trimester is often too late to prevent long and short-term fetal  
2 complications and preterm labor; and

3           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes that multiple other policies and  
4 practices being utilized to address the needs of individuals and families struggling with  
5 homelessness and unstable housing are necessary to effectively address continuing issues  
6 including, but not limited to, low-barrier programming for homeless youth, official identification  
7 prerequisites to qualify for aid, the length of stay in Navigation Centers and other shelters;  
8 now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Homelessness  
10 and Supportive Housing to establish, publicize, and consistently apply a policy that  
11 guarantees that homeless pregnant individuals are eligible for family homeless services and  
12 housing through Family Coordinated Entry at any point in their pregnancy by extending the  
13 definition of family homelessness to include homeless individuals with a confirmed pregnancy  
14 that do not have any other minor children; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
16 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to adhere to San Francisco's health data-driven  
17 established definition of homelessness established by Board Resolution No. 997-01 which  
18 includes SRO and doubled-up families; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
20 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to modify San Francisco Coordinated Entry  
21 Standards and assessments to adhere to a consistent definition of homelessness that  
22 includes families living in Single Room Occupancy hotels and doubled-up housing situations  
23 as eligible households able to access shelter and other services through City's Family  
24 Coordinated Entry system; and, be it

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1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
2 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to work to ensure that families living in SROs or  
3 doubled-up are eligible for more appropriately-sized housing options; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
5 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to modify the calculation of a family's prioritization  
6 score under Family Coordinated Entry to ensure that the aggregate needs of all members of a  
7 household are assessed and factored into the family's overall prioritization score, as opposed  
8 to solely considering the needs of the head-of-household; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms the independent  
10 authority of the Local Homelessness Coordinating Board to develop its own public meeting  
11 agendas in order to meaningfully respond to these and other policy concerns related to the  
12 City's homelessness response system; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly supports the Mayor's  
14 commitment to meet monthly with representative service providers with expertise and an  
15 established history of serving homeless individuals and families to address these and other  
16 policy concerns related to the homelessness response system; and, be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
18 Homelessness and Supportive Housing to coordinate with the Mayor's office, homeless  
19 stakeholders, and the Board of Supervisors to address the homelessness crisis and ongoing  
20 policy concerns to improve access to, and efficacy of, the City and County of San Francisco's  
21 homelessness response system.

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