

1 [Urging the Mayor and City Departments to Develop a Plan to Address High Levels of COVID-  
2 19 Cases in the Latinx Community]

3 **Resolution urging Mayor London N. Breed, the Department of Public Health, the Human**  
4 **Services Agency, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to**  
5 **adopt five specific actions to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in the Mission**  
6 **District and within the Latinx community, including an extensive education and**  
7 **outreach effort, a robust basic-needs security program, the development of a rapid**  
8 **response system for confirmed cases, increased testing capacity in the neighborhood,**  
9 **and a plan to relocate unhoused Mission residents and those living in congregate**  
10 **settings who are vulnerable to hotel rooms where they can safely isolate.**

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12 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has been  
13 rapidly spreading worldwide; and

14 WHEREAS, The virus, which was originally detected in December 2019, has reached  
15 pandemic proportions with more than 3,000,000 confirmed cases that have resulted in over  
16 200,000 deaths around the world; and

17 WHEREAS, On Monday, March 16, 2020, Mayor London Breed announced a public  
18 health order requiring all San Francisco residents to shelter in place to slow the spread of  
19 novel coronavirus in the community, requiring all businesses to cease operations except for  
20 those deemed essential businesses, and directing people experiencing symptoms to isolate  
21 and self-quarantine; and

22 WHEREAS, As of Tuesday, April 28, 2020, the San Francisco Department of Public  
23 Health (DPH) has reported at least 1,468 confirmed cases in San Francisco, resulting in 23  
24 deaths; and

1           WHEREAS, Of the 1,468 cases, DPH reports that 32% of cases are identified as  
2 Latinx, yet the Latinx community comprises only 15% of the City’s total population; and

3           WHEREAS, Area code 94110, where the Mission District is located, a historically  
4 Latinx neighborhood, has 182 positive cases, the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases  
5 of any area code in San Francisco; and

6           WHEREAS, Current economic and social conditions, coupled with the extreme cost of  
7 living in San Francisco has forced many Latinx people, particularly newly arrived immigrants,  
8 into congregate living settings, often where multiple families share one or two rooms, thus  
9 unable to safely isolate, quarantine, and practice prescribed social distancing measures; and

10          WHEREAS, Large numbers of immigrant and Latinx people work in essential industries  
11 such as food cultivation and production, in retail selling essential goods like food and  
12 hardware supplies, and in transportation, and are unable to shelter in place, increasing odds  
13 of exposure; and

14          WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to nearly 280,000 immigrants, who comprise  
15 nearly 36% of the City’s population with an estimated 35% of the city’s immigrant population  
16 being undocumented; and

17          WHEREAS, Immigrants are woven into the fabric of San Francisco, they are our  
18 friends, family members, and neighbors, they open businesses, work in our shops and touch  
19 the lives of every San Franciscan every single day; and

20          WHEREAS, The current White House Administration has made it a central focus to  
21 restrict the rights of immigrants and their access to COVID-19 relief, and has created a  
22 climate of fear and distrust where immigrants question whether they should seek assistance  
23 and medical care; and

24          WHEREAS, Amid a global health pandemic, the inclusion of immigrants is critical to  
25 “flattening the curve,” according to public health guidance that indicates that the health and

1 well-being of every member of the community is necessary to ensure the health of the entire  
2 country; and

3 WHEREAS, Like all Americans impacted by this public health crisis, immigrants also  
4 have an urgent need for health care, economic relief, food assistance, housing security, and  
5 inclusion in all COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in cities, states, and nationally; and

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a Sanctuary city, in acknowledgement of the  
7 contributions immigrants make to our city and in affirmation of the fact that all humans  
8 deserve to live free from persecution, uncertainty, and terror; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco created Healthy San Francisco to ensure that all residents,  
10 regardless of immigration status, have full access to health care, to express that not only does  
11 everyone deserve to live free but also deserves health care; and

12 WHEREAS, Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been discharged  
13 into congregate settings where they are unable to isolate and risk exposing family members  
14 and all other residents; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
16 urges Mayor London Breed to direct the Department of Public Health, Human Services  
17 Agency, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and any other relevant city  
18 departments to develop a five-point plan to address the disparate impacts of the COVID-19  
19 public health crisis in the Mission District and within the Latinx community; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this plan include, at minimum, the following components:  
21 a communications and outreach program specifically tailored to reach the Mission District and  
22 the Latinx community, which includes adequate translation and culturally competent  
23 messaging that explains proper social distancing protocols, and clarifies that city resources  
24 are available regardless of legal status and that there are no “public charge” consequences to  
25 accessing services; a robust food & basic-needs security program that uses gift cards and

1 other financial assistance tools to allow for flexible purchase at local markets and shops to  
2 support families financially impacted by COVID-19; a rapid referral and response system to  
3 monitor and assist COVID-19 positive patients and their families in being able to properly  
4 quarantine and isolate as quickly and safely possible; increasing COVID-19 testing capacity in  
5 the Mission by providing trusted community clinics and healthcare providers that serve this  
6 neighborhood with additional testing and personal protective equipment; a commitment to  
7 prioritize community members of the Mission District who are seniors, have chronic health  
8 conditions, are unhoused or otherwise vulnerable, and who cannot properly shelter in place  
9 due to their present living circumstances for hotel rooms where they can safely isolate or  
10 quarantine.

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