

1 [Urging Safeway to Reverse Plan to Close a Grocery Store in the Fillmore]

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3 **Resolution urging Safeway Incorporated to reverse plan to close a grocery store at**
4 **1335 Webster Street in the Fillmore in March 2024.**

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6 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2024, Safeway Incorporated announced that the Safeway
7 at 1335 Webster Street in San Francisco’s Fillmore district would shutter “in or around early
8 March” and that the 3.68-acre property would be sold to Align Real Estate; and

9 WHEREAS, The announcement of an abrupt closure of this grocery store has been
10 met with outrage, fear, and questions from community members who rely on this store; and

11 WHEREAS, The subject site was part of the Redevelopment Area where Black and
12 Japanese families were forced to move from the area, homes were demolished, businesses
13 closed, and people displaced, as part of the highly damaging “urban renewal” redevelopment
14 policies in the Fillmore; and

15 WHEREAS, A defining characteristic of the redevelopment era was decisions forced on
16 communities without their input, facilitated by claims that the communities were “blighted”, and
17 with promises that development and real estate speculation which displaced thousands would
18 somehow benefit communities, and

19 WHEREAS, Prior to the Safeway being built in 1983, the historic Booker T. Washington
20 Hotel was there until it was torn down in 1968 without community support, just two years after
21 the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency purchased the hotel with plans to use it as a
22 temporary relocation center for displaced residents; and

23 WHEREAS, Safeway consists of a grocery store, pharmacy, and bank, and these
24 services at this location were a purposeful post-redevelopment response to previous redlining

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1 and redevelopment policies that not only displaced residents and small businesses but
2 prevented financing for grocery stores and banking services.

3 WHEREAS, Safeway has operated for over forty years at this site; and

4 WHEREAS, The Safeway on Webster Street is the only full-service grocery store in the
5 Fillmore, and with the closure of this grocery store residents of the neighborhood would have
6 no nearby grocery options, potentially for years, and

7 WHEREAS, This Safeway is located on robust transit lines and many San Franciscans
8 in surrounding neighborhoods travel to this grocery store by bus, car, bike, or on foot, to get
9 basic necessities; and

10 WHEREAS, Safeway has not held a single community meeting with Fillmore or
11 Japantown neighborhood residents regarding closure plans, mitigations, or planning for
12 alternative grocery services in the event of closure; and

13 WHEREAS, The pending closure of the Safeway threatens to create food insecurity
14 and a food desert in the heart of the Western Addition; and

15 WHEREAS, Food insecurity contributes to poor health and health disparities through
16 multiple pathways: stress, trauma, poor diet quality, and malnutrition; and

17 WHEREAS, Food insecurity increases the risk of multiple chronic conditions, including
18 diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension; exacerbates existing physical and mental health
19 conditions, can impair child development; and

20 WHEREAS, Construction on any new development at 1335 Webster Street would not
21 begin for a significant period of time after the sale, raising questions about why the grocery
22 store should not continue to operate for the benefit of the community until construction begins;
23 and

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1 WHEREAS, Safeway has stated that they have no immediate plans to be a part of the
2 future development, and the developer, Align Real Estate, has made no public commitment to
3 a future grocery store on this site; and

4 WHEREAS, On January 22, 2024, following community pressure, Safeway announced
5 their plans to extend the closing date from March 2024 to January 2025 to give the community
6 and the City more time to establish a transition plan, but Safeway has not provided details
7 regarding their commitments to the community or Board of Supervisors; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Safeway Incorporated to reverse its
9 plans to close the Safeway on 1335 Webster Street in March 2024, and to work with the
10 Western Addition community, city leaders, and Align Real Estate (or any other buyer) to keep
11 Safeway open until development begins, and to explore the inclusion of a grocery store in any
12 future development; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Align Real Estate (or any
14 other buyer) of this site, to work with the City and County of San Francisco and the Western
15 Addition community to keep Safeway open until development begins, and to explore the
16 inclusion of a grocery store in any future development; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Safeway and Align Real
18 Estate (or any other buyer) to participate in a community meeting, open to the public, to
19 discuss plans for the property and answer questions; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges City departments, including
21 but not limited to the Office of Economic Workforce and Development, Mayor's Office of
22 Housing and Community Development, the Planning Department, the Human Rights
23 Commission, the Department of Public Health, the Human Services Agency, and Department
24 of Disability and Aging Services to work with Safeway, Align Real Estate (or any other buyer),
25 and the community to ensure that the grocery store does not abruptly close, and to explore

1 community benefits including a new grocery store as part of any development at this site in
2 the heart of the Fillmore; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the clerk of the
4 Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Office of Economic Workforce and
5 Development, Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development, the Planning
6 Department, the Human Rights Commission, the Department of Public Health, the Human
7 Services Agency, and Department of Disability and Aging Services, Safeway Northern
8 California Headquarters, and Align Real Estate.

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