

1 [Urging HSH to Fill Vacant Permanent Supportive Housing Units]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to**
4 **fill at least half of the vacant Permanent Supportive Housing units within 90 days and**
5 **to maintain a vacancy rate no greater than 5% thereafter.**

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7 WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) is a proven model to provide
8 stable housing for people experiencing homelessness, where vulnerable people can tend to
9 their physical and mental health in a stable environment with support services, which benefits
10 the whole community; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, there were 7,754 people
12 experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, consisting of 3,357 people in temporary
13 shelters and 4,397 people unsheltered, all of whom could benefit from stable, supportive
14 housing; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s
16 (“HSH”) Vacancies in Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) dashboard, in August 2023,
17 there were 1,002 vacancies in PSH, over 10% of the City’s total number of PSH units, with
18 714 available for referral and 288 “offline” for maintenance, inspection, or other reasons and
19 not available for referrals; and

20 WHEREAS, Vacancies in Supportive Housing rose sharply in or about 2021 and have
21 remained high since then, averaging 10% monthly over the last two years; and

22 WHEREAS, HSH states on its website that it has a goal to reduce the vacancy rate to
23 7%, and that it has implemented a series of policies designed to help reach this goal,
24 including lowered requirements for documentation for clients to move into housing, adding
25 new Access Points to increase services to support clients to navigate the housing process,

1 outlining the length of time units can be offline for repairs, and improving the quality of PSH
2 buildings; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the addition of new policies, San Francisco has continued to
4 average a 10% vacancy rate for PSH units over the last year; and

5 WHEREAS, There is widespread agreement that vacant PSH units need to be filled
6 with urgency and that it is unacceptable that the City should continue to have 10% of our
7 supportive housing portfolio vacant while people continue to experience homelessness, our
8 shelters continue to be filled to capacity, and PSH providers continue to lose necessary
9 revenue, yet despite this agreement in principle, vacancy numbers remain high; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds it unacceptable that our City
12 continues to have such a high vacancy rate in supportive housing at a time when so many
13 people are experiencing homelessness and our shelters are filled to capacity; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors urges HSH to act with urgency to
15 fill vacant PSH units and reduce the number of vacant PSH units by 50% within 90 days; and,
16 be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to ensure that the
18 vacancy rate in PSH does not average more than 5% going forward; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges HSH to report to the
20 Board of Supervisors on its progress filling vacant PSH units and reducing the vacancy rate
21 as described herein no later than 120 days after the date of this Resolution.

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