File No. 130411

Committee Item No. ______
Board Item No. 30

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: ______ **Date** ______

Board of Supervisors Meeting **Date** May 14, 2013

Cmte Board

☐ ☐ **Motion**
☐ ☒ **Resolution**
☐ ☐ **Ordinance**
☐ ☐ **Legislative Digest**
☐ ☐ **Budget and Legislative Analyst Report**
☐ ☐ **Youth Commission Report**
☐ ☒ **Introduction Form**
☐ ☐ **Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report**
☐ ☐ **MOU**
☐ ☐ **Grant Information Form**
☐ ☐ **Grant Budget**
☐ ☐ **Subcontract Budget**
☐ ☐ **Contract/Agreement**
☐ ☐ **Form 126 – Ethics Commission**
☐ ☐ **Award Letter**
☐ ☐ **Application**
☐ ☒ **Public Correspondence**

OTHER **(Use back side if additional space is needed)**

☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______
☐ ☐ ______

Completed by: ______ **Date** ______
Completed by: Alisa Miller **Date** May 9, 2013

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document can be found in the file.

FILE NO. 130411 RESOLUTION NO.

[Lyme Disease Awareness Month - May 2013]

Resolution declaring May 2013 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a serious bacterial infection that is commonly transmitted by infected ticks and is spreading everywhere in the world, including nationally, statewide and locally; and

WHEREAS, There is an average of 33,000 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in the United States 2011, the most recent year for which we have national statistics; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the reported cases of Lyme disease are only 10 percent of the actual cases that meet surveillance criteria; and

WHEREAS, The tick that spreads Lyme disease has been found in 56 out of California's 57 counties; and

WHEREAS, Seven San Franciscans are known to have contracted Lyme disease since 1995 and co-infections from being bitten by infected ticks in the City with three reported to the Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, If treated immediately and appropriately, Lyme disease can usually be cured; and

WHEREAS, If untreated or misdiagnosed, Lyme disease can cause long-term health problems, including neurological disorders, memory loss, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, psychological disorders and, in some rare cases, can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, In the State of California, ticks are present throughout the year and we must take precautions to protect humans and animals from tick bites all year long; and

WHEREAS, Immediately following a previous year's introduction of a resolution proclaiming May 2012 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month at the Board of Supervisors meeting, a San Francisco resident who had watched the proceedings recognized his own symptoms for the first time; and

WHEREAS, The month of May is recognized nationally and by the State of California as Lyme Disease Awareness Month; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco does hereby proclaim May 2013 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

From:	Board of Supervisors
Sent:	Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:39 PM
To:	BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation
Subject:	File 130411: Lyme awareness month

From: Tre [mailto:lymeover@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 5:34 AM
To: Board of Supervisors
Subject: Lyme awareness month

Good idea getting people's attention. This disease is the cause of many symptoms that are being treated but not the disease itself. This awareness could ultimately cut health care costs.
I market a great detox item at this link www.bio-mats.com/lymeover If you have lyme detoxing is very valuable please refer people with environmental toxins to my site. These sooth herxing give off negative ions and deeply penetrate far infra red into and through all joints. It's like an open sauna with long exposure times such as all night turning the body into a radiator.
On all counts wellness awaits and demands awareness. Well done Sincerely yours Lymeover or Tre Dan

Sent from my iPhone

Miller, Alisa

From: Board of Supervisors
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:48 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS-Legislative Aides; Miller, Alisa
ubject: File 130411: Lyme resolution

From: Theresa Karnecki [mailto:thefingerpainter@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 7:28 AM
To: Board of Supervisors
Subject: Re: Lyme resolution

Thank you for your recent resolution regarding Lyme Awareness month.

I've suffered from Lyme & co-infections for 25+ years, only finally getting diagnosed 3 years ago. Imagine needlessly losing so many years to illness . . .

Thank you again for your efforts, Theresa Karnecki

From: Board of Supervisors
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:51 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS-Legislative Aides; Miller, Alisa
Subject: File # 130411 ~ Lyme Disease Awareness Month Resolution

---

From: darcie spence [mailto:darciespence@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 9:29 AM
To: Board of Supervisors
Subject: File # 130411 ~ Lyme Disease Awareness Month Resolution

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a psychotherapist in San Francisco. A large part of my practice is working with patients who are struggling to overcome Lyme Disease and other "Difficult to Diagnose Health Issues", which in a very large majority of cases turn out to be Lyme Disease. It is not uncommon for me to see patients who were sick for 5, 10, 15 even 25 years before receiving a diagnosis.

Lyme Disease is the most common vector born illness in the United States. It is, in my opinion, an emerging epidemic and public health crisis. Because there has been so much conflict in the medical field about the illness, doctors and other health officials and professionals remain misinformed. Health professionals are not being trained in how to recognize this illness, or how it can be treated. The unreliability of lab testing (so many false negatives) has been a significant part of the controversy.

Lyme Disease, which includes numerous co-infections, is a very serious illness. It causes a wide array of debilitating physical, cognitive and psychiatric symptoms. Though it impacts people differently, what is clear is that the longer you have Lyme Disease the more difficult it is to treat and to cure. It ruins people financially. It can kill you. It can be passed from mother to fetus. It is a spirochete like syphilis and appears that it can transferred through sexual contact. There are associations between Lyme Disease and many other serious illnesses. (ALS, MS, Autism, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's). Many people are diagnosed with these illnesses, before the Lyme Disease is identified. Some patients turn out to have both.

One of the most disturbing issues is that if Lyme is diagnosed right away, it is relatively easy to treat for many people. If is not, it becomes more and more difficult and very costly. And, if people do not have financial resources, they will NOT have the opportunity for treatment. For these people, as they get increasingly ill, they often have no choice but to go on disability. The disease is costing individuals, families, the work place, and community.

I applaud you for passing the resolution to make May Lyme Disease Awareness Month in San Francisco. If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to call. I am also giving a lecture about Lyme Disease to mental health professionals on Thursday, June 13, 2013 from 4-5:30pm. I would welcome any of you to attend.

Best regards,

Darcie

Darcie Spence, MFT
2506 Clay Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-820-3250
Psychotherapy & Consultation
darciespence@me.com
www.darciespence.com

Howe, Lynne

From: Board of Supervisors
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:39 AM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation
Subject: Re the May 2013 Lyme Disease Awareness Month resolution, file #130411

From: Robin Krop [mailto:sf_seal@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 1:05 AM
To: Board of Supervisors
Subject: Re the May 2013 Lyme Disease Awareness Month resolution, file #130411

To all supervisors: thank you for your attention to this resolution which Supervisor Jane Kim submitted today and which I understand you will all pass unanimously at next week's board meeting. As you know, most of us there to publicly testify were unable to do so, due to the long hearing. So I am submitting my comments in writing here, plus some extended discussion. I invite any of you to comment at the meeting next week about what you may have heard from the public calling in and writing to you this week about this issue.

May 2013 Lyme Disease Awareness Month is being observed all over the country, including in a large rally in NYC Friday for 1000s, with quite a speaker list. It is also being recognized by people in 30 countries. Lyme disease is the fastest growing infectious disease in many places and is spreading five times faster than AIDS.

Lyme disease is a bacterial disease, mostly spread by very small infected ticks randomly found on vegetation, wood and animals, including birds, which have flown the ticks around the world, thus making it a global problem unfortunately, and very much in need of attention everywhere.

Ticks are so small, like the size of the period at the end of this sentence, that many people never see the tick that bit them. I did see the tick that bit me in my foot in Bug Sur in 1981, but no one knew it meant anything and I forgot about it. I underwent 25 years of painful and mysterious symptoms before I was told by a nurse online in VA what I had. I subsequently tested positive for Lyme and started treatment. Because I can date every symptom, I participated along with three others in a one-hour TV interview in 2007, called "San Francisco Lyme Disease Talkshow," which you can google for, in which four of us answer a talkshow host's questions, in our effort to help educate the public.

Most people, including the others in the program, never saw the ticks that bit them. Most people remain undiagnosed and misdiagnosed for years and become very ill. I am one of the few Lyme patients able to be up and to come testify; so many are in bed. Someone wanted to organize an East Bay May Lyme Disease Awareness rally and was too sick to even get out of bed, and so couldn't organize the rally, which did not happen. So any communications you get represent so many others who can't be present or functional.

Misdiagnoses can include chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, autism, lupus, arthritis, etc. More severe neurological misdiagnoses include MS, ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, since the bacteria attack and inflame the brain and nerves early on. There are 100+ strains in the US and 300 worldwide, which is one reason why we all present with such varying inflammatory symptoms from head to toe.

I am currently saving the life of a old friend of mine who presented with Parkinson's symptoms and could not talk or move anymore. I told her that sometimes Parkinson's turns out to be Lyme disease. She got tested, tested positive, and is now starting treatment. She is one of the lucky ones - she is starting to talk and move again and she may make it. So many have not made it - many of those who have passed from Lyme disease and co-infections are listed at www.lymememorial.org. Many will not make it in the future either, unless we start to get serious about letting people know what's going on, how to recognize symptoms, how to get diagnosed, how to treat, and most important, how to protect us, pets and the environment in the first place so we don't have to get sick! It means a lot of lifestyle changes, but ask anyone who's sick, and they'll tell you it's worth it to learn how to protect!

Many are also often dealing with co-infections, such as Babesia, Bartonella, Ehrlichia, Anaplasma, etc. I always tell people to google the symptoms and see if they think they match any, and then to consider getting tested. In general, we recommend the IGeneX lab in Palo Alto for testing. There is also a lab in PA, Advanced Laboratory Services, that can culture the actual Lyme bacteria.

There are also other forms of transmission, such as other bugs being reported to do so, as well as via human tissues and fluids, including congenitally, via breastfeeding, blood transfusions, organ transplants, and sometimes sexually. About 50% of couples report similar symptoms.

Some leading Lyme advocacy organizations include www.lymedisease.org, our state/national site; and www.lymenet.org, our national/international site. Some East coast organizations have educational programs they've been using for a couple decades. www.lymediseaseassociation.org could probably tell you who the organizations are with developed programs. The CA Public Health Dept also does some educating.

Our Lyme documentary is "Under Our Skin," via www.openeyepictures.com. You can see it for free at www.hulu.com and also on Netflix.

I am listed at both www.lymedisease.org and www.lymenet.org for facilitating a Lyme support/advocacy group that meets monthly at the SF Main Library on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2-4pm in one of the conference rooms - usually on the 3rd floor - the 1st floor Info desk can let people know the meeting location. My Lyme advocacy email address is sf_seal@sbcglobal.net, which stands for San Francisco Support, Education & Advocacy for Lyme.

Lastly, these are the known infections contracted in San Francisco:
*1995, a man and his dog, in Crissy Field
*1995, a woman and man, at their residence at Noe and 15th St! They said raccoons were playing around the house
*mid2000s - a woman got bitten in GG Park at MLK and 19th Ave, on the hillside behind the children's playground. She got Lyme, Babesia, Bartonella and Ehrlichia from that tick bite! She is willing to be public about it, and testified one year at City Hall for the Lyme resolution month.
*2006 and 2008 - a woman got infected twice in her own backyard at Monterey/Plymouth. She got Lyme and Babesia. She said it's a corridor for wild animals.
*2007 - a woman got bitten in the Marina, in her home, when the dog brought an infected tick inside. She's guessing the dog picked up the tick at the Green/Gough dog park.
*2008 - a man got bitten in Diamond Hgts Park. He had a very large bull's eye rash, an initial symptom for around 20-30% of those infected.
* 2009, I think - a woman got reinfected from a tick on a dog in a dogbar in the Mission district! See, that's pretty public! And scary, if you ask me!

Protection programs would include educating about safety for people, pets and the environment. I helped organize two Lymewalks in San Francisco for LymeDisease.org and we prepared protection info on these topics, if you're interested in seeing any material. www.treatthebite.com is also a good site. It's an evolving field, learning about what protects us.

Obviously, some science is needed to help with this global predicament. I heard they are currently testing Alaskan cedar nootkatone and carvacrol ground sprays to see if they can eradicate infected ticks. I heard they were able to do so for 40 days. That work, and more like it, is ongoing. This is a huge burgeoning field for anyone to go into, and I hope that we will all keep learning what to do. Even though May is the awareness month, because the nymph stage of ticks emerges in the springtime, the problem is year-round, with nymph ticks biting in the spring and summer, and adult ticks biting between November and June, thus we need to practice protective habits, like using tick repellent on us and our pets, etc, all year-round.

I thank you all for your time and attention to this matter!

Yours, Robin Krop
SF Lyme activist

Howe, Lynne

From: Board of Supervisors
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 5:40 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors; BOS Legislation; BOS-Legislative Aides
Subject: FILE: 130411

-----Original Message-----
From: Barbara Arnold [mailto:ba@barbaraarnoldlegal.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 4:50 PM
To: Board of Supervisors
Subject: item 130411

To President Chiu and Members of the Board:

My name is Barbara Arnold. I am an attorney who represents Lyme disease patients in their Social Security disability claims. I am heartened to know the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is recognizing Lyme Disease Awareness month.

San Francisco has a proud history of recognizing the rights of people who found full citizenship denied to them in other parts of this country.

At the dawn of the AIDS crisis, doctors who were not welcome to practice anywhere else, found a place in this progressive city.

I know from direct experience there are a number of Lyme patients living in the city today. The life of a Lyme patient is a life of extreme isolation. It is a life of great pain. It is a life spent fighting for access to care.

We live under a system in which insurance companies are allowed the force of law. Their rules fail to recognize the complex and serious nature of Lyme disease by cutting off treatment after 28 days.

From 2004 to 2009, I endured such a life. I was infected with Lyme disease and treated according to the rigid insurance rules. But I found hope and health here, in San Francisco. I found a doctor practicing in this progressive city. San Francisco proved itself again to be a safe harbor for the civic, cultural, and health lives of the people of the world. I now practice law in Berkeley and represent the rights of Lyme patients throughout California.

Thank you for carrying on the proud tradition of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in leading a progressive, aware city. Thank you for your recognition of Lyme Awareness Month and your continued recognition that human rights, civil rights, and healthcare rights are one and the same.

Print Form

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2013 MAY -7 AM 10:29

BY

Time stamp
or meeting date

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

☐ 1. For reference to Committee.
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.

☒ 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.

☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.

☐ 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor ☐ inquires"

☐ 5. City Attorney request.

☐ 6. Call File No. ☐ from Committee.

☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).

☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.

☐ 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).

☐ 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.

☐ 11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission

☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Jane Kim

Subject:

Proclaiming Lyme Disease Awareness Month - May 2013

The text is listed below or attached:

Please see attached.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only:

130411 ✓