

1 [Urging the Governor to Provide Relief for Small Businesses Affected by the COVID-19
2 Pandemic]

3 **Resolution urging the Governor to implement a full fee moratorium for small**
4 **businesses, and allow on-sale alcohol licensees to sell alcohol for off-premises**
5 **consumption.**

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7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and United
8 States of America have each declared local, state, and national emergencies in response to
9 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

10 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the Health Officer of San Francisco issued an order
11 directing residents to stay home, except to provide or receive essential services; and

12 WHEREAS, The social distancing required to slow the spread of the COVID-19
13 pandemic and minimize loss of life is also resulting in severe economic impacts for our City
14 and State, particularly small businesses who provide both essential and non-essential
15 services to their communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Several policies at a local and state level have been announced to support
17 small businesses and their workers, including a moratorium on evictions for small- and
18 medium-sized businesses, a deferral for local business taxes and fees in San Francisco, a
19 local relief fund to provide some financial support for local merchants, local financial support
20 for sick pay for employees, and more; and

21 WHEREAS, A temporary moratorium on state fees would provide additional and
22 needed relief for small businesses currently struggling to stay open; and

23 WHEREAS, Small business owners and their employees who continue to provide
24 essential services are on the front lines of this crisis; and

25 WHEREAS, Food is an essential service during this emergency; and

1 WHEREAS, Many small businesses that typically sell food and alcohol for on site
2 consumption, including restaurants and bars, are unable to remain open as a viable business
3 by switching to a take-out model for food only; and

4 WHEREAS, Restaurants with on-sale alcohol licenses often rely on alcohol sales to
5 boost revenue, particularly during a time when they must shift to a take-out only model of
6 business; and

7 WHEREAS, State law and regulations prevent businesses with strictly on-sale alcohol
8 licenses from selling alcohol for consumption off-site; and

9 WHEREAS, Temporarily suspending or altering state laws and regulations to allow
10 restaurants, bars, and other institutions to sell alcohol for consumption off-site, when sold
11 alongside food, would allow many small businesses to continue to stay in business and
12 provide food, which is an essential service; and

13 WHEREAS, Following an order from Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York, the New
14 York State Liquor Authority on March 16, 2020, released new guidelines to temporarily alter
15 state laws and regulations, allowing businesses with on-sale alcohol licenses to sell alcohol
16 along with food for off-site consumption; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 hereby urges Governor Gavin Newsom to implement a full fee moratorium for small
19 businesses in the State of California, for the duration of the California State of Emergency;
20 and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby urges Governor Newsom to direct the
22 California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to issue temporary guidance allowing on-
23 sale alcohol licensees to sell alcohol, when sold with food, for off-premises consumption.
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