

1 [Allocation of Mental Health Services Act Funds.]

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3 **Resolution establishing mental health services for San Franciscans exposed to gun**  
4 **and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice system as policy priorities in the**  
5 **Board of Supervisors' review of the City's submission to the State for Mental Health**  
6 **Services Act funds.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco had 88 homicides in 2004, a 28 percent increase from the  
9 year before; and,

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department reported that 63 of San Francisco's  
11 88 homicides in 2004 involved a firearm; and,

12 WHEREAS, As of April 19, there have been 24 homicides in San Francisco in 2005;  
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, Research by Hill and Jones found that more than 75% of American  
15 children and adolescents in lower-income urban areas report having been exposed to  
16 community violence; and,

17 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health concluded that the effects of experiencing  
18 traumatic stress, either as a witness or direct victim, are a major public health problem in the  
19 United States, with consequences of potentially severe psychological, behavioral, medical,  
20 and social dysfunction; and,

21 WHEREAS, The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence determined that  
22 children living in violent communities are at an increased risk for injury, developmental  
23 disorders, juvenile crime, PTSD and related anxiety disorders; and,

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1           WHEREAS, Research by Berman et al. found that 34% of urban youths exposed to  
2 community violence have been reported to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);  
3 and,

4           WHEREAS, Children and youth experiencing the symptoms of PTSD have impaired  
5 abilities to perform academically and socially, and have disrupted development; and,

6           WHEREAS, According to the California Attorney General's Crime and Violence  
7 Prevention Center, studies show that children exposed to violence, either as victims or as  
8 witnesses, are more likely to become juvenile or youth offenders; and,

9           WHEREAS, Research by Aisenberg found that mothers exposed to community  
10 violence manifest significant levels of distress symptomatology, including PTSD, depression,  
11 and anxiety; and,

12           WHEREAS, The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) reports that the  
13 prevalence of mental health disorders among youths in the juvenile justice system is as high  
14 as 60 percent; and,

15           WHEREAS, Research by Cocozza and Skowrya found that at least one in every five  
16 youths in juvenile justice facilities across the United States have what is considered to be a  
17 serious mental health disorder; and,

18           WHEREAS, Thirty percent of incarcerated boys and 50% of incarcerated girls suffer  
19 from PTSD, according to studies by Cauffman et al; and,

20           WHEREAS, NMHA found that recidivism rates among youth in the juvenile justice  
21 system who receive mental health treatment are as much as 25% lower than the rates of  
22 those children and teens in untreated control groups; and,

23           WHEREAS, A 2005 congressional report, *Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for*  
24 *Community Mental Health Services in California*, found that the majority of California's juvenile  
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1 detention facilities inappropriately incarcerate youths while waiting for availabilities in  
2 community mental health services; and,

3 WHEREAS, *Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for Community Mental Health*  
4 *Services in California* reported that in a six-month period, 799 youths were held unnecessarily  
5 and stayed in jails an average of two months; and,

6 WHEREAS, In November 2004, the voters of California approved Proposition 63, the  
7 "Mental Health Services Act" (the "Act"); and,

8 WHEREAS, The Act imposes an additional one percent tax on taxpayers' taxable  
9 personal income above one million dollars to provide dedicated funding for the expansion of  
10 county mental health services; and,

11 WHEREAS, The Act requires each county's mental health program to prepare and  
12 submit to the State an annually updated three-year plan for allocating funds available under  
13 the Act; and,

14 WHEREAS, In December 2004 Mayor Newsom announced the formation of a task  
15 force to consider proposals regarding how the funding the City receives through Proposition  
16 63 should be allocated; and,

17 WHEREAS, Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code section 10.170 *et seq.* the  
18 acceptance and expenditure of federal, State, or other grant funds is subject to the approval  
19 by resolution of the Board of Supervisors; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors hereby establishes mental health services for  
21 San Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice  
22 system as policy priorities in the Board of Supervisors' review of the City's submission to the  
23 State for Mental Health Services Act funds; and, be it

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1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That in exercising its powers in approving the acceptance and  
2 expenditure of State funds under the Act, the Board of Supervisors will take into account  
3 whether and to what degree the policy priorities as outlined in this Resolution have been  
4 addressed; and, be it

5           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City's Mental Health Board shall submit to the Board  
6 of Supervisors its three-year plan for allocating funds available under the Act, and annual  
7 updates, at a time sufficient to allow the Board of Supervisors to review and approve the plan  
8 before it is submitted to the State; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the enhanced mental health services for San  
10 Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice system  
11 shall be incorporated into the City's other violence prevention strategies.

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