



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

October 30, 2019

RE: File 191056 – Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish Mental Health SF

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

The cost of the proposed ordinance, should it be approved by the voters, is dependent on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process, as an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. Future costs would likely be significant, subject to these future decisions.

The ordinance would establish Mental Health SF, a program designed to provide access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and psychiatric medications for adult San Francisco residents who are experiencing homelessness, who are uninsured, or who are enrolled in Medi-Cal or Healthy SF and meet certain medical diagnoses. The ordinance establishes a Mental Health Service Center, an Office of Coordinated Care, a Crisis Intervention Street Team, and an Office of Private Insurance Accountability. Additionally, the ordinance establishes a Mental Health Implementation Working Group that would recommend expansion of other mental health and substance use treatment services.

The program established by the ordinance would not be operative until voters approve a tax that would provide additional revenue to fund the program, the City's budget has exceeded the prior fiscal year's budget by 13 percent, or the Board of Supervisors pass a General Fund appropriation to fund the program by a two-thirds vote.

The cost of the program will vary depending on the number of individuals in the specified service populations, their rate of utilization of various services, facility needs, federal and state reimbursement rates, and other factors. My office has not yet concluded its projection of these costs. We will do so prior to submission of this letter to the Department of Elections for inclusion in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

Sincerely,


Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.