

1 [Affirming Commitment to Direct Resources to Housing for the Black Community and
2 Addressing Black Homelessness]

3 **Resolution affirming commitment from the Board of Supervisors to direct resources to**
4 **housing for the Black community, and to address Black homelessness.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has consistently affirmed its commitment to
7 racial equity in the City's Budget and recently declared a war on racism from the City and
8 County of San Francisco and affirmed its commitment to redirecting resources from the San
9 Francisco Police Department to the Black community; and

10 WHEREAS, Investments in housing are critical to the City's reinvestment in the Black
11 community; and

12 WHEREAS, Government-sanctioned racial discrimination in lending and the sale and
13 renting of homes - from racial covenants to redlining to exclusionary zoning - has made
14 housing a central feature of racial inequity in the city and the country; and

15 WHEREAS, Black people have the lowest homeownership rates in San Francisco at
16 23%; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Black population has declined at nearly four times the
18 rate of the Bay Area, overall; and

19 WHEREAS, Black renter and owner households in San Francisco are the most
20 "severely cost burdened" by their housing costs, with about 25% and 20% spending over half
21 of their income on rent and mortgage, respectively; and

22 WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans make up less than 6% of the City's population but
23 comprise 37% of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco; and

24 WHEREAS, Of families experiencing homelessness in San Francisco in 2019, 28%
25 identified as Black or African American; and

1 WHEREAS, 29% of the youth population experiencing homelessness identified as
2 Black or African American; and

3 WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness in SF say the cost
4 of housing (or lack of a job or income) is the primary barrier to exiting homelessness; and

5 WHEREAS, A recent SF Human Rights Commission (HRC) report titled “Reinvestment
6 of San Francisco Police Department Budget to Support the African American/Black
7 Community” Report re-affirmed access to housing as a central issue for reinvestment in the
8 Black community; and

9 WHEREAS, The report noted that African Americans have the lowest median
10 household income in San Francisco, and the Black population is the only racial group in San
11 Francisco to consistently decline in every census count since 1970; and

12 WHEREAS, The report also noted “a trend of discriminatory practices amongst
13 landlords who do not want to rent to Section 8 voucher holders, disproportionately Black
14 women with children; the outcome is having to find housing outside of the City.”; and

15 WHEREAS, Through the Human Rights Commission’s community engagement
16 process: “Community members also wanted to ensure that Black people stay housed in the
17 first place; they advocated for the creation of a ‘Black Preservation Fund’ to prevent Black
18 community from losing their homes and help off-set costs to prevent eviction or foreclosure.”;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The MegaBlackSF Coalition has also identified “Housing Justice” as a top
21 priority for policy reform an investment; and

22 WHEREAS, A June recent report from the Urban Institute found that nearly one in four
23 black and Latino renters nationally deferred or didn’t pay their rent in May due to COVID-
24 related impacted, compared with just 14% of white renters; the report also found that half of
25 black and Latino renters were concerns about being able to pay their rent in June; and

1 WHEREAS, The availability of housing vouchers has decreased since the SF Housing
2 Authority closed its waitlist for the Mainstream Section 8 HCV Waiting List in 2019; and,

3 WHEREAS, Of Black households served by the “Tenant Right to Counsel Program,”
4 80% of those who took advantage of the program successfully fought off evictions and were
5 able to stay in their homes; and

6 WHEREAS, Given that the median monthly cost of a one-bedroom apartment in San
7 Francisco is over \$3,000 while those working minimum-wage jobs in the city make monthly
8 incomes of only \$2,702 housing subsidies play a critical role in filling the income gap for the
9 poorest San Franciscans; and

10 WHEREAS, As the economic picture only worsens, housing subsidies are an
11 undeniable lifeline to millions of households across the country to either stay in their homes or
12 acquire housing in the affordable or private market, and

13 WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans experiencing homelessness are underrepresented
14 in the City’s “Shelter In Place” hotel rooms, a critical COVID-19 intervention that enables
15 people experiencing homelessness to reduce their risk of COVID infection; and

16 WHEREAS, Respondents to HRC’s survey identified “ensuring faster entry into
17 permanent supportive housing” as a priority, and yet, the City has consistently had hundreds
18 of available yet vacant supportive housing units due to inadequate referral systems; and

19 WHEREAS, Various tenant stabilization, housing rental and ownership programs,
20 rapid-rehousing and other subsidies, and homeless services, exist in San Francisco today, but
21 most do not meet the needs of San Franciscans and in particular black San Franciscans due
22 to lack of resources; and

23 WHEREAS, Housing, homeless service, and tenant stabilization agencies have
24 proposed a number of immediate investments in the City Budget to address housing access
25 for Black San Franciscans including, but not limited to:

- 1 a) Rental Assistance for back rent to keep Black San Franciscans in their home,
2 b) Housing subsidies to get more people into stable housing,
3 c) Shelter in Place Hotel rooms to get people experiencing homelessness to safety
4 during the pandemic,
5 d) Free legal representation for anyone facing an eviction or the threat of eviction,
6 e) Emergency re-sheltering program for unsheltered families,
7 f) Housing navigation services for justice-involved/reentry transition-age youth,
8 g) COVID-19 Flexible Funds for Family Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Subsidy
9 Extensions,
10 h) Diversion and ReEntry Support Services for Transgender Communities, and
11 i) Investments in Supportive Housing to Maintain Service and Infrastructure
12 Quality; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes housing as a
14 human rights and public health issue that is critical to the health and wellbeing of Black
15 individuals, Black families and the Black community; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the structural
17 racism and failed policies that have led to poor housing outcomes for the Black community;
18 and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the housing
20 investment recommendations of the Human Rights Commission’s “Reinvestment of San
21 Francisco Police Department Budget to Support the African American/Black Community”
22 roadmap; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Department of Homelessness and
24 Supportive Housing to adopt the BLA’s recommendation to expedite the development of
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1 enhanced functionality of the ONE System to incorporate accurate and real-time tracking of
2 housing units in order to house people more quickly; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors is committed to making
4 targeted investments in housing for Black San Franciscans and communities of color,
5 including new housing subsidies, housing vouchers, rental assistance for back rent, tenant
6 legal representation for those facing eviction, legal services to access housing resources,
7 emergency re-sheltering, housing navigation services, rapid rehousing, supportive housing
8 investments, and other investments that advance housing equity.

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