

1 [Problem Gambling Awareness Month - March]

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3 **Resolution declaring March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Six to eight million Americans, including more than 1.2 million Californians,
7 meet the criteria for problem gambling and, by their gambling behavior, negatively affect the
8 lives of another 48 to 80 million individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is defined as gambling behavior which causes
10 disruption in any major area of life: psychological, physical, social, vocational, health, spiritual
11 or emotional; and

12 WHEREAS, Problem gambling (“gambling disorder”) has been classified recently by
13 the American Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the causes and
14 consequences of alcohol and drug dependence; and

15 WHEREAS, Behavioral signs of problem gambling include gambling to escape
16 boredom, pain or loneliness, lying to loved ones to conceal the extent of gambling, needing to
17 gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve excitement, borrowing money to
18 gamble, and trying repeatedly over time to win back money lost; and

19 WHEREAS, Many Americans gamble more money each year than they spend on
20 groceries, betting upwards of \$900,000,000,000 annually; and

21 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue impacting relationships,
22 families, businesses, and communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Populations at high risk for gambling problems includes seniors, youth,
24 college students, veterans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native
25 Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, Only 15% of problem gamblers ever seek treatment; and

2 WHEREAS, Numerous free resources, including self-help workbooks, phone-based
3 counseling, individual counseling, support group counseling, residential care and a locally-
4 based 24/7 helpline (1-888-968-7888) are now available for problem gamblers and affected
5 individuals; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health – Community Behavioral
7 Health Services, in partnership with NICOS Chinese Health Coalition, made the City and
8 County of San Francisco one of the first municipalities in the nation to offer a problem
9 gambling prevention program to its residents, beginning in 1998; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
11 recognizes the month of March of every year as Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and,
12 be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco declares March of every year as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City
15 and County of San Francisco.

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