

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill 1554 and Senate Bill 819 - Banning the Sale and
2 Distribution of Powdered Alcohol in California]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 1554, authored by Assembly**
4 **Member Irwin, and Senate Bill 819, authored by Senator Huff, which will ban the sale**
5 **and distribution of powdered alcohol in California.**

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7 WHEREAS, According to calculations by the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention (CDC) averages of 2006-2010, 503 underage youth die annually from alcohol
9 related causes in California and excessive alcohol consumption by California youth leads to
10 30,236 years of potential life lost each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Youth violence related to drinking costs California \$3,500,000,000
12 annually and 216 deaths, and youth traffic crashes related to drinking costs \$1,200,000,000
13 annually and 148 deaths; and

14 WHEREAS, The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over
15 \$6,700,000,000 annually, in 2012, 5,192 youth aged 12 to 20 years were admitted for alcohol
16 treatment in California; and

17 WHEREAS, Conservative estimates conclude that the City and County of San
18 Francisco bears the cost of \$17,100,000 annually, for alcohol-related emergency medical
19 transport, medical care of people with alcohol-related illnesses; alcohol abuse treatment and
20 prevention; as well as disability and death due to alcohol use; and

21 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, alcohol use ranks among the leading causes of
22 premature mortality; the San Francisco Department of Public Health considers alcohol a major
23 public health problem; and

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1 WHEREAS, Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely
2 to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of
3 alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

4 WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol also has a very high potential to attract youth with its
5 convenience, fruity flavors and portability; and

6 WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol could be readily used to spike other alcoholic
7 beverages making them more dangerous for youth consumption, or added to sodas, energy
8 drinks, juices or punch very easily, much more easily than adding liquid alcohol; and

9 WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol is easy to conceal, and could be snuck into schools,
10 libraries, social functions, coliseums, stadiums, and concert venues without notice; and

11 WHEREAS, Adolescence is a time of risk-taking and experimentation, and this type of
12 product will encourage heavier drinking, excessive drinking and binge drinking; and

13 WHEREAS, The ban of this product will have no fiscal cost to the State or the City and
14 County of San Francisco, except in enormous cost savings from reduced death, injury and
15 alcohol-related disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Over twenty-five states have taken action to ban powdered alcohol in the
17 last two years, and another ten have had legislation proposed in the 2015 session, and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Prevention Coalition, and community leaders support a
19 statewide ban on powdered alcohol; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
21 hereby urges the California State Legislature and Governor to pass AB 1554 and SB 819;
22 and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
24 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of California, the
25 California State Assembly, and the California State Senate.