

1 [International Overdose Awareness Day - August 31, 2023]

2

3 **Resolution recognizing August 31, 2023, as an International Overdose Awareness Day**  
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco.**

5

6 WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is a day for communities to  
7 remember those who have lost their lives to overdose and renew commitments to ending the  
8 overdose epidemic that is present in communities around the world; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that overdose deaths in the  
10 United States have been steadily increasing since 1999; and

11 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that  
12 roughly 110,000 people lost lives to drug overdose in 2022; and

13 WHEREAS, The CDC reported that for every drug overdose that results in death, there  
14 are many more nonfatal overdoses, which also contribute to the increasing trauma; and

15 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, there were 647 confirmed accidental drug overdose  
16 deaths in 2022, averaging almost two deaths per day; and

17 WHEREAS, Between January and June of 2023, there have already been 406  
18 accidental drug overdoses confirmed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in  
19 San Francisco, which is 101 accidental overdose deaths more than the 305 that occurred  
20 during the first half of 2022; and

21 WHEREAS, The OCME report for released for June 2023, also includes previously  
22 unavailable data which reveals that the vast majority of people who were housed and died of  
23 accidental overdose were San Francisco residents; and

24

25

1           WHEREAS, Among the people who have died to overdose in 2023, 280 were  
2 determined to have had a fixed address, and 265, or 95%, of them were San Francisco  
3 residents; and

4           WHEREAS, The overdose epidemic has been made worse by the introduction of new  
5 drugs including fentanyl and xylazine, also referred to as “tranq”; and

6           WHEREAS, In order to address the ongoing overdose crisis, it is recommended that  
7 the City of San Francisco provide a comprehensive continuum of care for people who use  
8 drugs that is grounded in public health and includes both harm reduction services and  
9 abstinence-based programs; and

10           WHEREAS, It is recommended that the City of San Francisco expand non-  
11 discriminatory access to medication for substance use disorder treatment and culturally  
12 affirming, voluntary treatment while providing fact-based drug education; and

13           WHEREAS, It is important to fund peer-led programs and tenant-led overdose  
14 navigation in supportive housing as well as scaling up drug sobering centers and drug  
15 adulterant testing; and

16           WHEREAS, It is also important to provide support and resources for syringe service  
17 programs and implement harm reduction interventions such as overdose prevention centers  
18 and safer supply; and

19           WHEREAS, This chronic illness needs to be addressed as the health crisis that it is  
20 and not seen as a law enforcement problem to solve; and

21           WHEREAS, Dignity and self-worth are an important part of self-care and when people  
22 are given an opportunity to make safer choices, they will most often do so; and

23           WHEREAS, Countless San Franciscans have been touched by the grave impacts of  
24 the overdose epidemic in our communities as overdose does not discriminate based upon  
25 age, gender, city or country; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to  
2 addressing the epidemic of drug overdoses in the city; and, be it

3           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and designates  
4 August 31, 2023, as International Overdose Awareness Day in the City and County of San  
5 Francisco; and, be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor’s Office to  
7 open new Wellness Centers funded in the recently approved budget to provide life-saving  
8 support to drug users as soon as possible, especially as there has been no increase in  
9 service since the Mayor and District Attorney begin the efforts to arrest drug users.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25