FILE NO. 250063 RESOLUTION NO. 34-25

[Urging Walgreens to Reconsider Store Closures in San Francisco]

Resolution urging Walgreens to reconsider store closures in San Francisco and to prioritize alternative solutions to maintain their presence in San Francisco, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods that face significant challenges in accessing healthcare and essential services.

WHEREAS, Walgreens has been a vital part of San Francisco's retail and healthcare landscape, providing essential goods, pharmacy services, and health support to the city's diverse communities for decades; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens is the one of the largest retail pharmacy chains with approximately 8,500 locations across the United States and an additional 4,000 locations across the Europe, and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, Walgreens filled about 796 million prescriptions in the United States, including vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, According to Walgreen's Fiscal Year 2024 Earnings, 2024 sales increased 6.2% to up to $147.7 billon USD covering retail pharmacy sales in the Untied States, international retail, and wholesale operations compared to 2023; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens recently announced 1,200 nationwide closures over the next three fiscal years due to profitability challenges, including stores unable to cover the costs of leases; 12 stores in San Francisco are scheduled to close by the end of February 2025; and

WHEREAS, The list of planned closures include: 1201 Taraval Street, 3201 Divisadero Street, 1363 Divisadero Street, 825 Market Street, 1750 Noriega Street, 1524 Polk Street, 1301 Franklin Street, 1189 Potrero Avenue, 135 Powell Street, 1630 Ocean Avenue, 5280 Geary Boulevard, and 5300 3rd Street; and

WHEREAS, The planned closures of Walgreens stores in San Francisco disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, low-income residents, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and residents of neighborhoods with limited access to alternative pharmacy services; and

WHEREAS, These closures exacerbate existing challenges in neighborhoods already facing barriers to basic services; and

WHEREAS, According to the study "Association Between Pharmacy Closures and Adherence to Cardiovascular Medications Among Older US Adults," published on the National Library of Medicine, pharmacy closures lead to health risks associated with older adults failing to take medication; and

WHEREAS, According to the study, "Assessment of Pharmacy Closures in the United States from 2009 Through 2015," published on the Journal of American Medical Association, found that pharmacies at greatest risk for closures are those with large customer base on public insurance, which have lower reimbursement rates than private plans; and

WHEREAS, The National Community Pharmacists Association found that the expansion of large drug retail chains have contributed to the decline and closure of independent pharmacies, reducing competition, and limiting options for consumers; and

WHEREAS, The closure of these stores will exacerbate existing inequities in healthcare access and will create pharmacy deserts, leaving many San Franciscans without convenient access to medications and essential health products; and

WHEREAS, The closures will have significant economic and social impacts, including job losses for Walgreens employees and diminished vitality of neighborhood commercial corridors; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco recognizes the importance of maintaining accessible healthcare services and retail options as part of its commitment to equity, public health, and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco must commit to addressing the needs of all residents, particularly those in historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Walgreens has previously demonstrated a willingness to collaborate with communities to address their concerns and adapt business strategies in a way that supports local needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly urges Walgreens to reconsider its decision to close the affected stores and prioritize alternative solutions to maintain their presence in San Francisco, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods that face significant challenges in accessing healthcare and essential services; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on Walgreens to engage collaboratively with city officials, community leaders, and impacted residents to develop strategies that sustain pharmacy access and support neighborhood vitality; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this resolution to the leadership of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc., including the Walgreens CEO, and strongly urges them to act swiftly to reconsider this matter to prevent disruptions to community health and well-being.

City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution: 034-25

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250063 **Date Passed:** February 03, 2025

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January 28, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 250063

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/28/2025 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

02/07/2025

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

02/07/2025

Date