

File No. 200382

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 22

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: April 21, 2020

### Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
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- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- MOU
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Public Correspondence

### OTHER

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: April 17, 2020

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Urging the City to Develop Options to Minimize Postmortem Body Handling Costs During the  
2 COVID-19 Crisis]

3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to develop options to minimize**  
4 **post-death body handling costs and provide these options to the loved ones of people**  
5 **who die during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has been  
8 rapidly spreading worldwide; and

9 WHEREAS, The virus, which was originally detected in December 2019, has reached  
10 pandemic proportions, with more than 1,965,561 confirmed cases that have resulted in over  
11 123,722 deaths around the world; and

12 WHEREAS, As of Tuesday, April 14, 2020, the San Francisco Department of Public  
13 Health has reported at least 987 confirmed cases in San Francisco that have resulted in 15  
14 deaths; and

15 WHEREAS, The death of a loved one is an extremely difficult, emotionally stressful  
16 event in normal times, and the COVID-19 shelter-in-place mandate has placed even greater  
17 emotional and financial burdens on the families of the deceased; and

18 WHEREAS, Due to strict public health orders, many patients dying in hospitals during  
19 this global health emergency must die alone because family members are prohibited from  
20 visiting general acute hospitals; and

21 WHEREAS, As a result of the regional and statewide shelter-in-place orders,  
22 thousands of working families have been furloughed or lost their jobs and are struggling to  
23 cover even basic needs such as food and housing; and

24

25

1           WHEREAS, The costs of retaining a funeral establishment and burial plot in the San  
2   Francisco Bay Area are prohibitively expensive, forcing many families to choose cremation;  
3   and

4           WHEREAS, The default cremation service retained by the City and County of San  
5   Francisco is not the most affordable service available to families; and

6           WHEREAS, The basic costs of handling a body post-death can be taxing for low-  
7   income families, especially if family members cannot work during the shelter-in-place  
8   mandate, and the City’s post-death body handling process includes Medical Examiner fees  
9   that could be avoided if certain steps that are not generally known are taken; now, therefore,  
10   be it

11           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City Administrator, in  
12   consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, to explore ways to minimize post-  
13   death body handling costs, and to develop and document clear options available to families  
14   who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including a waiver of the basic  
15   body-handling fees during the declared state of emergency; and, be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, These options should be available in multiple languages and  
17   immediately shared with the families of the deceased, enabling them to make informed  
18   decisions that minimize the financial burden of putting their loved ones to rest during this  
19   unprecedented and challenging COVID-19 public health crisis.

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# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Ronen; Haney

Subject:

Resolution Urging the City to Develop Options to Minimize Postmortem Body Handling Costs During the COVID-19 Crisis

The text is listed:

See attached resolution

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:  /s/ Hillary Ronen