

1 [Establishing a Population-Based Police Staffing Policy]

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3 **Resolution establishing a Board of Supervisors policy that police staffing levels be**
4 **adjusted to account for population and neighborhood growth.**

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6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department is charged with preserving the
7 public peace, preventing and detecting crime, and protecting the rights of persons and
8 properties by enforcing the laws of the United States, the State of California and the City and
9 County of San Francisco; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department has 1,730 sworn active duty
11 officers down from 1,951 sworn active duty officers in May 2010; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approves the annual budget, that
13 sets the appropriation for the budget for the Police Department, which includes determining
14 the number and size of annual Police academy classes; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1994, the voters of San Francisco passed Proposition D, a Charter
16 amendment that established a police staffing level of not fewer than 1,971 full duty sworn
17 officers; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1994, the population of San Francisco was 742,316; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2014, the population of San Francisco was estimated to be 841,138,
20 which is an increase of 98,822 since 1994, or 13.3%; and

21 WHEREAS, An increase of 13.3% from 1,971 full duty sworn officers would add 262
22 officers to the Charter-mandated staffing minimum for a total of 2,233; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) published a report
24 in which it developed a Vision Statement for the city's Police Department and
25 recommendations to implement this Vision Statement, which included an emphasis on

1 community policing and problem-solving policing in the department's approach to crime-
2 fighting; and

3 WHEREAS, The PERF report's recommendations to achieve the goals of this vision
4 statement included a range of staffing levels for sworn personnel of up to 2,254 officers, when
5 San Francisco's population was 798,680; and

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco's police staffing goals should reflect its current and future
7 needs, not the needs of the city from 20 years ago; and

8 WHEREAS, A report by the San Francisco Controller in 2015 found that from 2004 to
9 2014, the sworn police staffing per 100,000 residents in San Francisco has decreased by 13
10 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, In a comparison with peer cities, San Francisco was found to have the
12 second highest total crime per 100,000 residents, trailing only Oakland, and also was found to
13 trail several jurisdictions, including Washington DC, Chicago, Philadelphia, Newark, and
14 Boston, in the ratio of sworn and civilian police staffing per 100,000 for both residents and
15 daytime population; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a dynamic urban environment with evolving needs and a
17 growing population; and

18 WHEREAS, New neighborhoods have been built or are in the process of being built in
19 previously non-residential or low density areas, including but not limited to Treasure Island,
20 Candlestick Point, the Hunters Point Shipyard, and Visitacion Valley; and

21 WHEREAS, These new neighborhoods will require more city services, including police
22 patrols and response commensurate to those required by existing neighborhoods; and

23 WHEREAS, To rely on a static minimum staffing number disregards the changing
24 needs of an evolving urban environment; and

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1 WHEREAS, A minimum police staffing threshold serves as a clear baseline for making
2 budgeting decisions and planning for the future of the city; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, The Board finds the Charter-mandated number of 1,971 full duty sworn
4 officers to be an outdated and inadequate number of officers to fully serve the City; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board recognizes that a police staffing policy goal should
6 be based on current population and need, and on projected city and population growth; and,
7 be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board determines that police staffing goals should
9 exceed 2,200 full duty sworn officers, which would bring the voter-approved minimum into line
10 with San Francisco's current population; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board commits to fully funding police academy
12 classes in exceed this goal of 2,200 full duty sworn officers.

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