

1 [Reaffirming Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and the City’s Service Providers]

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3 **Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors support for San Francisco’s survivors**
4 **of domestic violence and the City’s service providers while they experience a**
5 **heightened need for services, increased expenditures to support these essential**
6 **services, and an uncertain financial future.**

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8 WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence have reported an increased need for
9 services at this time, since many are sheltering in place with their abusers; and,

10 WHEREAS, Those sheltering in place with an abuser or in an otherwise dangerous
11 home situation can call the San Francisco-based W.O.M.A.N., Inc. support line at (877) 384-
12 3578 to access peer counseling, safety planning, or referrals for additional services, 24 hours
13 a day, seven days a week, free of charge; or reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline by
14 calling (800) 799-7233, texting LOVEIS to 22522, or visiting www.thehotline.org; and,

15 WHEREAS, Domestic violence service providers in San Francisco remain open and
16 eager to help residents in need of assistance, and offer services such as emergency shelter,
17 transitional housing, crisis lines, community-based counseling, prevention programs,
18 education, legal assistance, and more, to individuals of all genders and households of all
19 compositions, including to the LGBTQ+ community, in nearly all of the over-100 languages
20 spoken in the Bay Area; and,

21 WHEREAS, More than one in three women in the United States will report
22 experiencing abuse by domestic partners in their lifetimes; and,

23 WHEREAS, More than half of all women who were homicide victims in the United
24 States in recent years were killed by their partners or relatives in acts of domestic violence;
25 and,

1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is even deadlier when abusers have greater access to
2 their victims and weapons; and,

3 WHEREAS, Interest in purchasing guns has surged 360 percent during the course of
4 the coronavirus pandemic, with firearm sales spiking across the Bay Area in response to the
5 requirement that residents shelter in place, before gun stores were designated nonessential
6 businesses and ordered closed; and,

7 WHEREAS, Over half of women killed by domestic abusers in the United States are
8 killed with guns; and,

9 WHEREAS, If you are a woman in the United States, you are 16 times more likely to
10 die by gun violence by an intimate partner than in other countries, and over half of mass
11 shootings in this country are related to domestic violence; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors voted on June 25, 2019, to support the federal
13 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 to prevent domestic violence and hold
14 offenders accountable; and,

15 WHEREAS, While women are more likely than men to experience violence in the
16 home, domestic violence affects individuals of all genders and households of all compositions,
17 and service providers in San Francisco are equipped to provide assistance in an extremely
18 wide variety of different situations; and,

19 WHEREAS, Requirements that residents shelter in place, while essential to public
20 health and addressing the coronavirus pandemic, have the negative consequence of giving
21 abusers increased access to their victims; and,

22 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, our domestic violence service providers are essential
23 services and continue to operate during the Shelter-in-Place Order, offering shelter, programs,
24 and resources for survivors as well as those currently experiencing domestic violence, as well
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1 as an intangible network of support for those in the service-provider community and for the
2 thousands of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crime, and elder abuse survivors; and,

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence service providers report heightened levels of need and
4 calls for service during the coronavirus pandemic as residents shelter in place, including a 130
5 percent increase in calls to the W.O.M.A.N., Inc. support line between March 1 to March 10,
6 2020, and March 11 to March 25, 2020; and,

7 WHEREAS, California courts remain open to process cases related to domestic
8 violence, requiring that survivors, service providers, and public-sector employees continue to
9 confront the consequences of domestic violence while adapting financially and emotionally to
10 sheltering in place; and,

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco service providers' budgets are stretched exceedingly thin
12 as they work to ensure that essential employees are able to provide essential services
13 remotely, to provide the most up-to-date information and services during the coronavirus
14 pandemic, and to make their work accessible in the City's commonly spoken languages; and,

15 WHEREAS, The coronavirus pandemic has increased the cost of doing business for
16 domestic violence service providers by requiring that organizations and shelters increase their
17 stocks of food, essential supplies, and products that allow their staff to continue working
18 remotely; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Department on the Status of Women has been issued instructions to
20 reduce next fiscal year's operating budget, which may further strain domestic violence service
21 providers' financial resources and destabilize these essential organizations and the
22 communities that depend on them; and,

23 WHEREAS, These organizations provide services that are essential during "normal"
24 times and are even more so during a global pandemic with acute local impacts; now,
25 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly reaffirms its
2 support for survivors of domestic violence and for domestic violence service providers in San
3 Francisco; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges City departments to fund,
5 at adequate levels, grants to these organizations to provide essential services to survivors of
6 domestic violence, gender-based violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and elder abuse.

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