

1 [Urging the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Agency to Designate San
2 Francisco for Operation Overdrive to Reduce Fatal Drug Overdoses and Deter Fentanyl
3 Trafficking]

4 **Resolution joining Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi in urging the United States (U.S.)**
5 **Department of Justice and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to designate the City**
6 **and County of San Francisco for Operation Overdrive to decrease fatal overdose rates,**
7 **to reduce drug-related violence, to increase community engagement, and to disrupt,**
8 **dismantle and deter fentanyl- trafficking networks currently inflicting myriad harms on**
9 **San Francisco’s public health, neighborhoods, and economic well-being.**

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11 WHEREAS, According to the latest report for April 2023 from the Office of the Chief
12 Medical Examiner (OCME), San Francisco is currently on pace to post the deadliest year for
13 accidental drug overdoses in City history in 2023, with 268 overdose deaths in the first four
14 months of this year, and a growing share, now approaching 80%, directly attributable to
15 fentanyl; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s street-level drug market is demonstrating increasingly
17 troubling anti-Black disparities in drug overdose deaths, with Black San Franciscans currently
18 accounting for 30% of citywide accidental drug fatalities over the first four months of 2023 to
19 date, a record percentage that has grown from 25% in 2020, to 28% in 2021, and 28% in
20 2022; and

21 WHEREAS, A San Francisco Chronicle analysis of OCME data and the U.S. Census
22 Bureau has convincingly established that “Black people are exponentially more likely to die of
23 an overdose” in San Francisco, with overdose death rates for Black San Franciscans
24 approximately five times the citywide average; and

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1 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s drug overdose crisis represents a public health calamity
2 unknown to our City since the deadliest days of the AIDS Crisis, claiming the lives of nearly
3 2,300 people citywide since January 2020, through April 2023, and surpassing nearly twice
4 over the lethality of COVID-19 during the same time period; and

5 WHEREAS, The primary street-level drug responsible for our current crisis in fatal
6 overdoses is fentanyl, a potentially deadly synthetic opioid for which the “estimated minimum
7 lethal dose” is just two (2) milligrams, according to the third edition of Clarke’s Analysis of
8 Drugs and Poisons (Pharmaceutical Press: London. 2011); and

9 WHEREAS, The amount of fentanyl seized from street-level drug dealers arrested by
10 San Francisco Police Officers in the Tenderloin Police District alone posted an approximate
11 12-fold increase over three years, rising from 5.45 kilos (or 12.01 pounds) in 2020; to 25.53
12 kilos (or 56.28 pounds) in 2021; to 65.37 kilos (or 144 pounds) in 2022; and

13 WHEREAS, In response to an inquiry by Supervisor Matt Dorsey, the San Francisco
14 Police Department’s Narcotics Detail conservatively estimated the value of San Francisco’s
15 illicit street-level drug market to exceed \$100 million annually; and

16 WHEREAS, Pervasive public safety concerns owing to unprecedented levels of street-
17 level drug dealing; brazen open-air drug use; drug-induced psychoses and violence;
18 addiction-driven theft, arson, petty crime, street camping, filthy street conditions, and related
19 harms are inflicting inestimable damage to San Francisco’s economic wellbeing and global
20 reputation, by diminishing tourism and nightlife, by discouraging commuters from working in
21 downtown neighborhoods, and by serving among the motivating rationales for a multitude of
22 recent business closures; and

23 WHEREAS, In an April 28, 2023 letter; U.S. House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
24 urged U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to direct the U.S. Department of Justice and
25 U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to designate San Francisco for its Operation Overdrive

1 initiative “to unlock enhanced federal resources for San Francisco to combat fentanyl
2 trafficking by drug cartels, which is causing overdose deaths and violent crime;” and

3 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Justice Department, Operation Overdrive is “a data-
4 driven approach using national crime statistics and CDC data to identify hot spots of drug-
5 related violence and overdose deaths across the country, in order to devote its law
6 enforcement resources to where they will have the most impact: the communities where
7 criminal drug networks are causing the most harm,” and that San Francisco is currently not
8 among the 34 cities across 23 states so designated for this overdose and violence reduction
9 enforcement initiative that, according to Speaker Emerita Pelosi, is showing “some level of
10 success in Florida and Pennsylvania;” and

11 WHEREAS, Operation Overdrive’s identified measures of impact in target areas are to
12 decrease overdose rates, violence rates and gun violence rates, increase community
13 engagement and to take out networks causing harm; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins Speaker Emerita
15 Pelosi in urging the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to
16 add San Francisco as soon as practicable to the list of Operation Overdrive cities benefiting
17 from enhanced federal resources to decrease fatal overdose rates, to reduce drug-related
18 violence, to increase community engagement, and to disrupt, dismantle and deter fentanyl-
19 trafficking networks currently inflicting myriad harms on San Francisco’s public health,
20 neighborhoods, and economic well-being.

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