[Behested Payment Waiver - Survivor-Victims of Crime]

Resolution authorizing the Director and Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights to solicit donations to benefit survivor-victims of crime from individuals, nonprofits, private organizations, and foundations, for six months, notwithstanding the Behested Payment Ordinance.

WHEREAS, Violence affects individuals of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic backgrounds, causing lasting harm to individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights envisions and is advancing a San Francisco where crime survivors access comprehensive support and where all city services operate with trauma-informed, victim-centered principles; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights 2025 survey found that 93% of community-based organizations serving survivor-victims reported difficulty securing resources for survivor-victims, with emergency housing and civil legal representation identified as the two most challenging resources to obtain; and

WHEREAS, The Safe Housing Alliance's 2022 report, Safe Housing in San Francisco: A Community Needs Assessment, illustrates the gap in housing access for survivor-victims, finding that for the 2019-2020 period, 'for every survivor who received DV safe housing that year, at least another two did not'; and

WHEREAS, Violence is a significant driver of family homelessness in San Francisco, with 43% of families assessed by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing Prioritization Assessment and Coordinated Entry Enrollment report that they became homeless while fleeing violence; and

WHEREAS, Providing emergency housing resources to residents experiencing violence is a proactive public safety strategy that prevents homelessness, stabilizes families, and promotes positive long-term health and safety outcomes for survivors and our community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to safe housing, civil legal assistance for survivor-victims is a needed resource and legal representation is a proven strategy to stabilize lives and obtain necessary safety tools such as protective orders and support during divorce and child custody hearings for domestic violence survivor-victims; and

WHEREAS, Civil legal services have been found to be a cost-effective strategy as demonstrated by the Legal Services Corporation's research brief, *The Economic Case for Civil Legal Aid*, a systematic review of 56 economic impact studies conducted between 2003 and 2023, that found a positive return on investment for civil legal aid spending, with an average return of $7 for every $1 invested in these legal services; and

WHEREAS, For immigrant legal services in San Francisco, there is currently a waitlist which puts immigrant survivor-victims at risk, particularly those seeking time-sensitive immigration relief such as T visas (for survivor-victims of labor or sex trafficking), U visas (for survivor-victims of serious crimes), and Violence Against Women Act protections (for survivor-victims of domestic violence) where legal support is critical for their success; and

WHEREAS, Despite facing budget cuts and grant freezes at the state and federal level, service providers and advocates in San Francisco continue to work tirelessly to address the urgent and growing needs of survivor-victims; and

WHEREAS, As San Francisco hosts major sporting events in 2026, the city has both an economic opportunity and an obligation to ensure trauma-informed services are available to address research-documented increases in gender-based violence associated with such events; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco remains committed to cultivating a city where the needs of survivor-victims of violent crime are met and where survivor-victims are heard and supported; and

WHEREAS, The Director and the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights seek a waiver of the City's Behested Payment Ordinance (Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code, Section 3.600 et seq.) to the extent it prohibits solicitations of financial support for the Project from persons or entities who would qualify as interested parties under the Behested Payments Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of fundraising would be to fund support for crime victims that may include but not be limited to the following: establishing a civil Right to Counsel for Domestic Violence survivors; for emergency and transitional housing for survivors of trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and community violence who are facing imminent harm and/or actively seeking to escape an injurious situation; for a continuum of care including transportation and emergency financial needs to support survivor-victims, and for prevention and increasing public awareness on these issues; and

WHEREAS, The parties receiving this waiver have agreed to report to the Board of Supervisors donations to the City that were solicited under this waiver; such reports will identify the donor, the amount of the donation, and the interested relationship the donor has with the department that solicited the donation; the department or office will submit the reports to the Board within 60 days of the expiration of the 6-month period authorized by this waiver; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That under Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code, the Board of Supervisors hereby waives application of the Behested Payment Ordinance for six months from the effective date of this Resolution to the Director and Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office for Victims' Rights ('MOVR') so that they may solicit donations

from nonprofits, private organizations and individuals, grant makers and foundations to support establishment of a pilot program to provide legal counsel for Domestic Violence survivors; to support emergency and transitional housing for survivor-victims; and to fund other essential needs, including transportation and financial assistance; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That granting this waiver under Section 3.620(f) serves the public interest by bringing private funding to help strengthen support and services for crime victims; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That granting this waiver under Section 3.620(f) does not create an appearance of impropriety.