

1 [Calling for a California State of Emergency Declaration on Homelessness]

2

3

Resolution urging Governor Jerry Brown to declare a State of Emergency on Homelessness to help coordinate region- and state-wide responses to this growing crisis and provide supplementary state assistance to cities and counties to provide needed supportive services.

7

8 WHEREAS, Homelessness is a growing problem throughout California and the entire
9 West Coast; and

10 WHEREAS, California accounted for 21% of the nation’s homeless population in 2015;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, California had the highest percentage of homeless people counted in
13 unsheltered locations in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, California reported the largest numbers of homeless unaccompanied
15 youth at 28% of the national total; and

16 WHEREAS, California has the largest number of veterans experiencing homelessness
17 with more than 11,000 veterans living on the streets in 2015; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Point-in-Time Homelessness Count in 2015 identified
19 7539 adults and youths living without shelter, a 7% increase since 2005; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the same survey, 29% of San Francisco’s homeless
21 population initially became homeless outside of San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, Recent efforts to remove the homeless through “sweeps” without providing
23 viable options for both emergency shelter and permanent, effective exits from homelessness
24 simply moves homeless residents to other neighborhoods and is inconsistent with the federal
25

1 encampment recommendations developed by the U.S. Inter-Agency Council on
2 Homelessness; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco spends \$241,000,000 per year funding homeless services
4 according to recent reports and that number does not include the outreach and work done by
5 public safety workers; and

6 WHEREAS, Other cities, such as Los Angeles, are also grappling with the
7 homelessness crisis and have already diverted resources and declared states of emergency;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Homelessness knows no city or county boundaries but is a regional and
10 state-wide issue and only a coordinated response will alleviate this crisis; and

11 WHEREAS, The struggles of those who are experiencing homelessness call for a
12 comprehensive approach to provide shelter, needed medical care and aid; and

13 WHEREAS, California is a state with a strong reputation for compassion and helping
14 the most vulnerable of our residents; and

15 WHEREAS, Only through a state-wide effort will we truly be able to respond effectively
16 to this crisis and ensure that services, shelter, and permanent exits from homelessness are
17 available to individuals wherever they become homeless; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Hawai'i and the cities of Los Angeles, California, Seattle,
19 Washington, and Portland, Oregon have all declared states of emergency, using the
20 proclamations as a way to make more funds available, extend contracts with homeless
21 service providers, earmark monies for new family shelters, and/or bypass ordinances to
22 enable the swiftest action possible to address the homelessness crisis; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Governor of California to
24 issue a statewide declaration of emergency to help coordinate the response and resources for
25 homeless individuals and families; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the City
2 and County of San Francisco and the Office of the Governor to inventory all surplus public
3 property statewide, except for parks and open space, to both provide emergency and short-
4 term shelter, following the model of San Francisco’s Navigation Center, which provides shelter
5 while allowing residents to maintain their support network and connecting them with needed
6 services and resources to successfully exit homelessness, and create permanent housing
7 opportunities with the right level of services to ensure that housing opportunities are stable
8 and successful in the long-term; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
10 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jerry Brown, and the
11 legislators currently representing San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area in the California
12 State Assembly and Senate, Assembly Members Phil Ting and David Chiu, and Senator Mark
13 Leno.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25