

1 [Recognizing Problem Gambling Awareness Month - March]

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3 **Resolution recognizing March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Gambling, in both legal and illegal forms, is becoming more omnipresent
7 in our everyday lives, including through Daily Fantasy Sports, internet casinos, social media
8 games, and sweepstakes cafes; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2016 Americans lost nearly \$117,000,000,000 at casinos, more than
10 any other country; and

11 WHEREAS, Six to eight million Americans, including more than 1.2 million Californians,
12 meet the criteria for problem gambling and, by their gambling behavior, negatively affect the
13 lives of another 48 to 80 million individuals; and

14 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is defined as gambling behavior which causes
15 disruption in any major areas of life: psychological, physical, social, vocational, health,
16 spiritual or emotional; and

17 WHEREAS, Problem gambling (“gambling disorder”) has been classified recently by
18 the American Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the causes and
19 consequences of alcohol and drug dependence; and

20 WHEREAS, Behavioral signs of problem gambling include gambling to escape
21 boredom, pain or loneliness, lying to loved ones to conceal the extent of gambling, needing to
22 gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve excitement, borrowing money to
23 gamble, and trying repeatedly over time to win back money lost; and

24 WHEREAS, Americans gamble more money each year than they spend on groceries,
25 betting upwards of \$900,000,000,000 annually; and

1 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue impacting relationships,
2 families, businesses, and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Populations at high risk for gambling problems includes seniors, youth,
4 college students, veterans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos/Hispanics and
5 Native Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, Only 15% of problem gamblers ever seek treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, Numerous free resources, including self-help workbooks, phone-based
8 counseling, individual counseling, support group counseling, residential care and a locally-
9 based 24/7 helpline (1-888-968-7888) are now available for problem gamblers and affected
10 individuals; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health – Community Behavioral
12 Health Services (SFDPH–CBHS), in partnership with NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
13 (NICOS), made the City and County of San Francisco one of the first municipalities in the
14 nation to offer a problem gambling prevention program to its residents, beginning in 1998; and

15 WHEREAS, The NICOS problem gambling program model has been replicated
16 nationwide; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 unanimously adopted a resolution declaring the month of March as Problem Gambling
19 Awareness Month; and now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
21 recognizes the outreach efforts by SFDPH-CBHS and NICOS to communities struggling with
22 problem gambling; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will continue to
24 support outreach and treatment programs for problem gamblers, in addition to strengthening
25 prevention strategies; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the month of March
2 of every year as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San
3 Francisco.

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