

1 [Gift – Private]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral**  
4 **Health Services to retroactively accept a gift of Buprenorphine medication from**  
5 **Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals with a monetary value of up to \$800,000 for**  
6 **the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 for ongoing and new**  
7 **patients receiving Opiate Replacement Treatment in San Francisco.**

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9 WHEREAS, Resolution 138-07, approved March 20, 2007, authorized DPH to  
10 retroactively accept a gift of Buprenorphine medication from Reckitt Benckiser  
11 Pharmaceuticals with a monetary value of \$300,000 for the period of January 1, 2007  
12 through December 31, 2009 to expand Opiate Replacement Therapy services in San  
13 Francisco; and Resolution 080452, approved April 17, 2007, authorized DPH to  
14 retroactively accept a second gift of Buprenorphine medication from Reckitt Benckiser  
15 Pharmaceuticals with a monetary value of \$300,000 for the period of March 1, 2008  
16 through August 31, 2008; and

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18 WHEREAS, the first gift was used to treat over 100 opiate dependent patients for  
19 about 1 year, as planned; and the second over 150 opiate dependent patients for about  
20 6 months, as planned; and

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22 WHEREAS, the program has been very successful and the many patients remain  
23 in treatment today, and are doing quite well on the medication; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department is seeing dramatically less opiate (e.g., heroin) use

1 and a number of patients have secured housing, returned to school or work, and/or  
2 reunited with loved-ones; and

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4 WHEREAS, Buprenorphine has been shown to be as effective as Methadone  
5 and has appears to have fewer side effects, a greater margin of safely if taken in  
6 overdose, and a lower potential for abuse than Methadone; and

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8 WHEREAS, Buprenorphine can be distributed in an office setting by a certified  
9 physician while Methadone is distributed in a clinic-based setting; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Department wishes to continue providing Buprenorphine but due  
12 to the high cost and due to the current fiscal environment, funding opportunities that do  
13 not rely on the General Fund should be maximized; and

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15 WHEREAS, Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals, the maker of Buprenorphine,  
16 has agreed to provide a third allotment of the medicine for up to an average census of  
17 215 patients over a 12 month period free of charge; and

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19 WHEREAS, in return for the medicine, DPH agrees to share the outcome  
20 information and continue to give presentations at local and national conferences; and

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22 WHEREAS, DPH wishes to obtain approval from the Health Commission and  
23 the Board of Supervisors to retroactively accept the second donation of the  
24 Buprenorphine medicine; and now, therefore; be it

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1           RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral Health  
2 Service is hereby authorized to accept this gift in accordance with the requirements set  
3 forth pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 10.100-305 and Code  
4 Section 10.100-201; and, be it

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6           FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health, Community  
7 Behavioral Health Services is hereby authorized to retroactively accept a gift of  
8 Buprenorphine medication from Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals with a monetary  
9 value of up to \$800,000 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

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APPROVED:

RECOMMENDED:

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Mitch Katz, M.D.  
Director of Health

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Michele Seaton  
Health Commission

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