

1 [Encouraging Commercial, Residential Lenders, and Public Utilities to Have a 60-Day  
2 Moratorium on Default Payments for Customers Including Small Businesses]

3 **Resolution encouraging banks, financial institutions, and public utilities to have a 60-**  
4 **day moratorium on default for customers, including small businesses, that are**  
5 **negatively impacted by financial hardship due to the impacts of COVID-19.**  
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7 WHEREAS, On January 30th the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of  
8 COVID-19 “a public health emergency of international concern”; and

9 WHEREAS, On January 31st, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary  
10 Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the  
11 nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

12 WHEREAS, On February 25th Mayor London Breed made an emergency declaration  
13 to strengthen the City’s preparedness to respond to COVID-19 to ensure San Francisco was  
14 ready as much as possible for the spread of the new virus; and

15 WHEREAS, On March 6th the San Francisco Department of Public Health announced  
16 aggressive recommendations to proactively prevent the spread of COVID-19 in San  
17 Francisco, including but not limited to, limiting outings if you have over 60 years old, urge  
18 employees to stay home if they are sick, minimize the number of employees working within  
19 arm’s length of one another, encourage use of tele-commuting, and avoid large gatherings to  
20 prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

21 WHEREAS, On March 9th the confirmed cases of COVID-19 have surpassed 110,000  
22 worldwide with more than 3,996 reported deaths and 423 cases in the U.S. resulting in 19  
23 deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, As a result of the rate of spread and recommendations to mitigate the  
25 impact of COVID-19, many businesses have experienced severe economic impacts due to

1 loss of business and decreased revenue which has resulted in many employers reducing  
2 hours and canceling shifts for many employees; and

3 WHEREAS, State and federal governments around the world have issued travel  
4 restrictions, canceled public events and instructions to severely limit social and economic  
5 activity which has caused the patronage to San Francisco's small businesses to decrease;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Small businesses are an essential engine of the San Francisco economy  
8 with over 57,000 small businesses employing nearly 350,000 employees and accounting for  
9 hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue; and

10 WHEREAS, Many small businesses in San Francisco, like local restaurants and  
11 retailers, operate leanly with just enough employees on staff to keep their doors open; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco economy reels from staff reductions, diminished hours,  
13 canceled flights, hotel rooms and a sudden and severe loss of income as a result of the global  
14 COVID-19 epidemic; and

15 WHEREAS, The loss of income can inhibit San Francisco residents from fulfilling their  
16 financial obligations for their commercial, residential loans and public utility payments,  
17 including gas, electric, water and garbage; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages banks and other financial  
19 institutions to take immediate action to develop an emergency assistance plan, similar to  
20 supports offered to customers impacted by natural disasters, to halt lenders going into default  
21 for 60 days to prevent the foreclosure and repossession of properties and to suspend fees  
22 and penalties for late payment; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages a 60-day  
24 moratorium on default for customers dealing with financial hardship due to COVID-19 for  
25 public utilities, including gas, electric, water and garbage; and, be it

1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
2 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to all banks, financial institutions and public utilities  
3 operating in the City and County of San Francisco.

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