

1 [Urging Public Works and the Department of Public Health to Increase Access to Public  
2 Restrooms]

3 **Resolution urging Public Works and the Department of Public Health to increase**  
4 **access to public restrooms in order to meet minimum standards as set for by the**  
5 **United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, American Red Cross, and the Federal**  
6 **Emergency Management Agency to improve sanitation for the unhoused and slow the**  
7 **spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).**

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9 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a declaration  
10 of local health emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which was  
11 preceded by a March 4, 2020, proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor  
12 Gavin Newsom and a February 25, 2020, proclamation by the Mayor declaring the existence  
13 of a local emergency; and

14 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is currently experiencing an  
15 outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) which has been deemed a global pandemic by the  
16 World Health Organization; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, as of March 24, 2020, there  
18 are 398,100 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide claiming the lives of 17,400 people; and

19 WHEREAS, In the United State as of March 30, 2020, there are already 140,904  
20 cases, with 2,405 deaths; in California, there are 5,763 confirmed cases, including 2,193  
21 confirmed cases in the Bay Area, and 135 confirmed deaths in California, and 152 confirmed  
22 cases in San Francisco; with these numbers continuing to rise at a rapid rate; and

23 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and prevention have found that the  
24 COVID-19 virus is present in the feces of infected individuals; and

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1           WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to approximately 5,000  
2 people who are living on the streets without access to bathrooms or running water; and

3           WHEREAS, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued  
4 standards citing that in an emergency refugee camps should initially establish at minimum one  
5 bathroom per 50 refugees, with one bathroom per 20 refugees being the post emergency  
6 standard; and

7           WHEREAS, The American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management  
8 Agency (FEMA) both have guidelines that issue a standard for toilet and handwashing station  
9 access that recommends a minimum of one bathroom per 20 people be made available in an  
10 emergency; and

11           WHEREAS, According to the Public Works website, San Francisco currently has 25  
12 public bathrooms operating through the Pit Stop program, which is a ratio of one bathroom per  
13 200 unhoused people which is well below UNHCR, American Red Cross, and FEMA  
14 standards; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Public Works and the  
16 Department of Public Health to prioritize increasing access to public restrooms and  
17 handwashing stations to the minimum standard of one bathroom per 50 unhoused individuals  
18 in order to stem the spread of COVID-19; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30  
20 days after the passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this Resolution to Public  
21 Works and the Department of Public Health.