

1 [Urging the City and County of San Francisco to Establish Safe Sleeping Sites]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish Safe Sleeping**
4 **Sites for unsheltered people, to encourage social distancing, improve sanitation, and**
5 **slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).**

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7 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a declaration
8 of local health emergency regarding COVID-19, which was preceded by a March 4, 2020,
9 proclamation of State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and a February 25,
10 2020, proclamation by Mayor London Breed declaring the existence of a local emergency;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is currently experiencing an
13 outbreak of COVID-19 which has been deemed a global health pandemic by the World Health
14 Organization; and

15 WHEREAS, As of Saturday, April 18, 2020, the San Francisco Department of Public
16 Health has reported 1,137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Francisco, and 20 deaths;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Homeless Point in Time Count conducted on January
19 24, 2019, found that there were 8,035 people experiencing homelessness, 5,180 of whom
20 were unsheltered, with 65% of unsheltered individuals sleeping outdoors in streets, parks or
21 tents; and

22 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has issued interim guidance regarding
23 encampments and COVID-19, including the following: do not clear encampments during
24 community spread of COVID-19, encourage people staying in encampments to set up their
25 tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual, ensure nearby

1 restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials and
2 bath tissues, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day, if
3 toilets or hand washing facilities are not available nearby provide access to portable latrines
4 with hand washing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people; and

5 WHEREAS, The City's Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) has refocused its
6 efforts on COVID-19 response including keeping areas clean, ensuring sidewalks are kept
7 clear, asking people to stay one person per tent and keeping tents at least 6 feet apart; and

8 WHEREAS, notwithstanding such efforts, encampments on sidewalks throughout the
9 City have grown, largely without adequate physical distancing and without adequate sanitation
10 and hygiene, posing a challenge to COVID-19 mitigation efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, Due to San Francisco's Shelter in Place Order many publicly and privately
12 owned parking garages and lots are currently unoccupied; and

13 WHEREAS, Cities including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Eugene and Arcata are creating
14 outdoor tent camping sites to slow the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing
15 homelessness; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges that the City and County of San
17 Francisco expeditiously plan for and establish safe sleeping sites for unsheltered people to
18 encourage social distancing, improve sanitation, and slow the spread of COVID-19 (Safe
19 Sleeping Sites); and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That Safe Sleeping Sites include marked off space for each
21 tent that allows for adequate social distancing, bathrooms, handwashing stations, meals,
22 drinking water, and garbage disposal, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance
23 and best practices; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That each Safe Sleeping Site have a safety plan and be
25 staffed 24/7 and include janitorial services and such other services as may be necessary and

1 practically feasible to maintain the health and safety of those at the site and the surrounding
2 neighborhood, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance and best practices; and,
3 be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That neighborhoods that are currently home to high numbers
5 of unsheltered people be prioritized for establishment of such Safe Sleeping Sites.

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