

1 [Authorizing the Local Homelessness Coordinating Board to Hold Public Meetings]

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3 **Motion authorizing the Local Homelessness Coordinating Board to meet remotely**
4 **during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order.**

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6 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, Mayor London N. Breed proclaimed a state of
7 emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and on March 3, 2020, the Board of
8 Supervisors concurred in the February 25 Proclamation; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the County Health Officer issued Order No. C19-07,
10 replaced by Order No. C19-07b on March 31, 2020, extended and replaced by Order No.
11 C19-07c on April 29, 2020, directing San Franciscans to stay in their homes and follow social
12 distancing requirements when outside the home; and

13 WHEREAS, On April 30, 2020, Mayor London N. Breed issued the Eighth Supplement
14 to the Emergency Proclamation, providing that City policy bodies may not hold public
15 meetings from March 18 through May 31, 2020, unless the Board of Supervisors, acting by
16 written motion, or the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee directs otherwise, based on a
17 determination that a policy body has an urgent need to take action to ensure public health,
18 safety, or essential government operations; and

19 WHEREAS, The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) regularly conducts
20 business that is necessary for public health, safety, and essential government business; and

21 WHEREAS, The LHCB performs multiple essential governmental operations as the
22 lead entity for the San Francisco Continuum of Care, including reviewing the Department of
23 Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s budget, reviewing and approving Continuum of Care
24 Notice of Funding Availability applications, advising the Department of Homelessness and

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1 Supportive Housing on the City’s homeless strategy, and creating a venue for members of the
2 public to weigh in; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the issuance of the Eighth Supplement to the Emergency
4 Proclamation, several new homeless programs have been established, including Safe
5 Sleeping Villages and Shelter-In-Place Hotels, several pieces of legislation related to
6 homelessness have been proposed and adopted, additional streams of state and federal
7 emergency funds have been secured to combat homelessness, and many policies related to
8 shelter access, encampments, and Coordinated Entry have been modified to adapt to the
9 emergency that, were the Local Homeless Coordinating Board permitted to continue meeting
10 on a consistent basis, would have been addressed in the Board’s regular course of dealings;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Consistent with San Francisco’s municipal commitment to democratic
13 values, the work of public agencies cannot proceed adequately on the basis of unilateral
14 action by the administrative branch of government, without the checks and balances provided
15 by the advisory and oversight functions of policy boards such as the LHCB; and

16 WHEREAS, Complaints by residents of these new programs have been brought to the
17 attention of members of the LHCB, and so long as the LHCB is not authorized to meet, it is
18 unclear what if any administrative resources the City offers to persons bringing forward such
19 complaints; and

20 WHEREAS, Amidst a state of emergency due to COVID-19, many San Francisco
21 residents have questions and concerns regarding homelessness, alternative housing
22 programs, shelter, street-level homeless response, the DSHH Budget and any changes to
23 protocols, and the opportunity to raise such questions and concerns at a public hearing is
24 essential; now, therefore, be it

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1 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors determines that the Local Homeless
2 Coordinating Board has an urgent need to resume meetings to ensure public health, safety, or
3 essential government operations; and, be it

4 FURTHER MOVED, That the Local Homeless Coordinating Board is authorized to hold
5 public meetings on a regular monthly basis, provided that such meetings occur by
6 teleconference or other electronic means without providing a physical meeting place, and the
7 Board complies with all applicable rules under the Sunshine Ordinance and the Brown Act
8 governing meetings of policy bodies, as those rules may be amended by Mayoral or Executive
9 Order during the COVID-19 emergency.

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