

1 [Urging the Nomination of Interim County Veterans Service Officer]

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3 **Resolution urging the City Administrator to immediately nominate an Interim County**
4 **Veterans Service Officer to safeguard the public health of the veterans in the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco during the existence of a local emergency due to the ongoing**
6 **spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.**

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8 WHEREAS, California Military and Veterans Code, Section 970, provides each county
9 within the state the appointment of a County Veterans Service Officer; and

10 WHEREAS, Administrative Code, Section 5.108.A-1, establishes the County Veterans
11 Service Officer under the purview of the Director of Administrative Services; and

12 WHEREAS, The Director of Administrative Services shall nominate for appointment by
13 the Board of Supervisors candidates who are qualified to serve as the County Veterans
14 Service Officer; and

15 WHEREAS, Pursuant to California Military and Veterans Code, Section 970, such
16 Officer shall be a veteran; and

17 WHEREAS, The position of County Veterans Service Officer has been vacant for over
18 a year; and

19 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission
20 wrote the City Administrator to formally request the Interim Appointment of a County Veterans
21 Service Officer; and

22 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco
23 issued the Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency, under Sections 8550
24 of the Government Code, Section 3.100(13) of the Charter, and Chapter 7 of the San
25 Francisco Administrative Code, establishing the existence of an emergency within the City

1 and County of San Francisco due to the ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Ten percent of COVID-19-related deaths in San Francisco have come
4 from the veteran population; and

5 WHEREAS, There are now over 1,300 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in San
6 Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, Greater coordination is necessary to track and monitor the number of
8 veterans who are currently infected with COVID-19 or have recovered from COVID-19; and

9 WHEREAS, Greater coordination is necessary to track and monitor the number of
10 veterans who are HUD-VASH eligible and expedite their pathway into housing; and

11 WHEREAS, Greater coordination and program outreach is necessary to maximize the
12 resources available to veterans between local, state, and federal levels; and

13 WHEREAS, A dedicated liaison is necessary to coordinate response efforts with the
14 City and County of San Francisco's Emergency Operations Center; and

15 WHEREAS, A dedicated liaison is necessary to coordinate efforts between City and
16 County of San Francisco's agencies and local nonprofit entities capable of aiding veterans in
17 the community; and

18 WHEREAS, A dedicated liaison is necessary to coordinate efforts between veterans'
19 organizations, staff, and volunteers; and

20 WHEREAS, A dedicated liaison will be necessary to coordinate with the recovery
21 efforts of the City and County of San Francisco and state and federal agencies; and

22 WHEREAS, Administrative Code, Section 5.108.A-2, delineates the powers and duties
23 of the County Veterans Service Officer; and

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1 WHEREAS, The County Veterans Service Officer is responsible for the overall
2 operation of the County’s Veterans Services Office, coordinating with public information
3 officers, and coordinating veterans’ services throughout the County; and

4 WHEREAS, The County Veterans Service Officer is responsible for developing and
5 administering program budgets, preparing budget requests and forecasts, and monitoring and
6 approving expenditures, in coordination with departmental and City management; and

7 WHEREAS, The County Veterans Service Officer is responsible for the monitoring,
8 selection, training, and evaluation of administrative personnel and Veterans Claims
9 Representatives; and

10 WHEREAS, The Veterans Claims Representatives under the supervision of the County
11 Veterans Service Officer are currently understaffed, experiencing a sizeable increase in the
12 needs of veterans and their families, and anticipating an even larger increase in the needs of
13 veterans and their families after the end of the COVID-19 emergency; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the City Administrator to
15 immediately nominate an Interim County Veterans Service Officer to safeguard the public
16 health of the veterans in the City and County of San Francisco during the existence of a local
17 emergency due to the ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the City
19 Administrator to conduct a national search to identify and recruit top talent to serve as a
20 permanent County Veterans Service Officer; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is committed to
22 providing the veterans in the community with much more than basic intake and referral
23 services from the County’s Veterans Services Office; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is committed to
25 hiring a transformative leader for the County’s Veterans Service Office, who will recruit top

1 talent for its Veterans Claims Representatives, lead a major drive to enroll veterans into
2 healthcare and disability services to attract additional federal funds to San Francisco's VA
3 Medical Center through the resource allocation system, leverage the Office to seek innovative
4 grant opportunities, and coordinate across local, state, and federal levels to bring in the
5 resources needed to house every veteran in San Francisco and find them a path forward into
6 our community; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco remains
8 unwavering in its support for policies and programs that safeguard the public health and
9 welfare of veterans in our community.

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