

1 [Affirming Commitment to Direct Resources to Housing for the Black Community and  
2 Addressing Black Homelessness]

3 **Resolution affirming commitment from the Board of Supervisors to directing resources**  
4 **to housing for the Black community, and to address Black homelessness.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has consistently affirmed its commitment to  
7 racial equity in the City's Budget and recently declared a war on racism from the City and  
8 County of San Francisco and affirmed its commitment to redirecting resources from the San  
9 Francisco Police Department to the Black community; and

10 WHEREAS, Investments in housing are critical to the City's reinvestment in the Black  
11 community; and

12 WHEREAS, Government-sanctioned racial discrimination in lending and the sale and  
13 renting of homes - from racial covenants to redlining to exclusionary zoning - has made  
14 housing a central feature of racial inequity in the city and the country; and

15 WHEREAS, Black people have the lowest homeownership rates in San Francisco at  
16 23%; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Black population has declined at nearly four times the  
18 rate of the Bay Area, overall; and

19 WHEREAS, Black renter and owner households in San Francisco are the most  
20 "severely cost burdened" by their housing costs, with about 25% and 20% spending over half  
21 of their income on rent and mortgage, respectively; and

22 WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans make up less than 6% of the City's population but  
23 comprise 37% of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco; and

24 WHEREAS, Of families experiencing homelessness in San Francisco in 2019, 28%  
25 identified as Black or African American; and

1 WHEREAS, 29% of the youth population experiencing homelessness identified as  
2 Black or African American; and

3 WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness in SF say the cost  
4 of housing (or lack of a job or income) is the primary barrier to exiting homelessness; and

5 WHEREAS, A recent SF Human Rights Commission (HRC) report titled “Reinvestment  
6 of San Francisco Police Department Budget to Support the African American/Black  
7 Community” Report re-affirmed access to housing as a central issue for reinvestment in the  
8 Black community; and

9 WHEREAS, The report noted that African Americans have the lowest median  
10 household income in San Francisco, and the Black population is the only racial group in San  
11 Francisco to consistently decline in every census count since 1970; and

12 WHEREAS, The report also noted “a trend of discriminatory practices amongst  
13 landlords who do not want to rent to Section 8 voucher holders, disproportionately Black  
14 women with children; the outcome is having to find housing outside of the City.”; and

15 WHEREAS, Through the Human Rights Commission’s community engagement  
16 process: “Community members also wanted to ensure that Black people stay housed in the  
17 first place; they advocated for the creation of a ‘Black Preservation Fund’ to prevent Black  
18 community from losing their homes and help off-set costs to prevent eviction or foreclosure.”;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The MegaBlackSF Coalition has also identified “Housing Justice” as a top  
21 priority for policy reform an investment; and

22 WHEREAS, A June recent report from the Urban Institute found that nearly one in four  
23 black and Latino renters nationally deferred or didn’t pay their rent in May due to COVID-  
24 related impacted, compared with just 14% of white renters; the report also found that half of  
25 black and Latino renters were concerns about being able to pay their rent in June; and

1 WHEREAS, The availability of housing vouchers has decreased since the SF Housing  
2 Authority closed its waitlist for the Mainstream Section 8 HCV Waiting List in 2019; and,

3 WHEREAS, According to the Human Trafficking in San Francisco 2107 report, African  
4 Americans were overrepresented in the trafficking survivor population compared to the San  
5 Francisco population. The report recommended significant investments in emergency shelter,  
6 new housing options, and housing assistance including rent subsidies and back rent for  
7 survivors of human trafficking; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Family Violence in San Francisco Report for fiscal year  
9 2017, Black women accounted for the highest number of cases of domestic violence for  
10 women between the ages of 18-39, and Black victims were over-represented across all age  
11 categories. The report notes that transitional permanent housing “provide[s] longer-term  
12 stability to survivors of abuse and their families,” and yet, the major domestic violence  
13 transitional housing services had an 85% turn-away rate in FY2017 primarily due to a lack of  
14 space in the service; and

15 WHEREAS, Of Black households served by the “Tenant Right to Counsel Program,”  
16 80% of those who took advantage of the program successfully fought off evictions and were  
17 able to stay in their homes; and

18 WHEREAS, Given that the median monthly cost of a one-bedroom apartment in San  
19 Francisco is over \$3,000 while those working minimum-wage jobs in the city make monthly  
20 incomes of only \$2,702 housing subsidies play a critical role in filling the income gap for the  
21 poorest San Franciscans; and

22 WHEREAS, As the economic picture only worsens, housing subsidies are an  
23 undeniable lifeline to millions of households across the country to either stay in their homes or  
24 acquire housing in the affordable or private market, and

1 WHEREAS, Black San Franciscans experiencing homelessness are underrepresented  
2 in the City's "Shelter In Place" hotel rooms, a critical COVID-19 intervention that enables  
3 people experiencing homelessness to reduce their risk of COVID infection; and

4 WHEREAS, Respondents to HRC's survey identified "ensuring faster entry into  
5 permanent supportive housing" as a priority, and yet, the City has consistently had hundreds  
6 of available yet vacant supportive housing units due to inadequate referral systems; and

7 WHEREAS, Various tenant stabilization, housing rental and ownership programs,  
8 rapid-rehousing and other subsidies, and homeless services, exist in San Francisco today, but  
9 most do not meet the needs of San Franciscans and in particular black San Franciscans due  
10 to lack of resources; and

11 WHEREAS, Housing, homeless service, and tenant stabilization agencies have  
12 proposed a number of immediate investments in the City Budget to address housing access  
13 for Black San Franciscans including, but not limited to:

- 14 a) Rental Assistance for back rent to keep Black San Franciscans in their home,
- 15 b) Housing subsidies to get more people into stable housing,
- 16 c) Shelter in Place Hotel rooms to get people experiencing homelessness to safety  
17 during the pandemic,
- 18 d) Free legal representation for anyone facing an eviction or the threat of eviction,
- 19 e) Emergency re-sheltering program for unsheltered families,
- 20 f) Housing navigation services for justice-involved/reentry transition-age youth,
- 21 g) COVID-19 Flexible Funds for Family Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Subsidy  
22 Extensions,
- 23 h) Diversion and ReEntry Support Services for Transgender Communities, and
- 24 i) Investments in Supportive Housing to Maintain Service and Infrastructure  
25 Quality; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes housing as a  
2 human rights and public health issue that is critical to the health and wellbeing of Black  
3 individuals, Black families and the Black community; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the structural  
5 racism and failed policies that have led to poor housing outcomes for the Black community;  
6 and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the housing  
8 investment recommendations of the Human Rights Commission's "Reinvestment of San  
9 Francisco Police Department Budget to Support the African American/Black Community"  
10 roadmap; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Department of Homelessness and  
12 Supportive Housing to adopt the BLA's recommendation to expedite the development of  
13 enhanced functionality of the ONE System to incorporate accurate and real-time tracking of  
14 housing units in order to house people more quickly; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors is committed to making  
16 targeted investments in housing for Black San Franciscans and communities of color,  
17 including new housing subsidies, housing vouchers, rental assistance for back rent, tenant  
18 legal representation for those facing eviction, legal services to access housing resources,  
19 emergency re-sheltering, housing navigation services, rapid rehousing, supportive housing  
20 investments, and other investments that advance housing equity.