

1 [Supporting Guaranteed Income and Direct Cash Payments]

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3 **Resolution supporting ongoing, direct cash payments to residents throughout the**
4 **pandemic and until our economy recovers, and for the Board of Supervisors to support**
5 **launching local guaranteed income programs.**

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

10 WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a Declaration
11 of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which was
12 preceded by a March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor
13 Gavin Newsom and a February 25, 2020, Proclamation by the Mayor Declaring the Existence
14 of a Local Emergency; and

15 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued Order No.
16 C19-07, commonly referred to as *Shelter in Place*, directing all individuals living in the City
17 and County of San Francisco to shelter in place at their residence with limited exceptions; and

18 WHEREAS, In order to comply with San Francisco's shelter-in-place orders for public
19 health, many businesses have shut their doors, temporarily or permanently, and laid off or
20 terminated thousands of employees; and

21 WHEREAS, As of July 1, 2020, 32% of American families were unable to pay their
22 housing costs, roughly 10.1% of white workers and 15.6% of Black workers were unemployed
23 in June and nationally 24.5 million workers are out of work because of the coronavirus; and

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1 WHEREAS, These levels of unemployment are at historical highs, and economists
2 have stated that despite the historic number of claims, they understate the extent of the
3 economic crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
5 Security (CARES) Act at the end of March, which includes a package of relief and stimulus
6 programs including \$500 billion for large corporations and one-time \$1,200 checks to
7 individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, Those workers who are eligible for unemployment insurance are still
9 getting only a fraction of what they would otherwise earn, and the additional Pandemic
10 Unemployment Compensation provided through the CARES Act is a short-term augmentation;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Some self-employed workers and independent contractors are now
13 eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided through the CARES Act, but those
14 payments are capped at \$167 per week; and

15 WHEREAS, Neither of the unemployment benefit programs established through
16 CARES are adequate to cover the extent and likely duration of loss of income; and

17 WHEREAS, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 12% of the population of the
18 United States or close to 45 million people were living in poverty and for those who are
19 employed, nearly 7% or about 7 million people were living in poverty; that is, people were
20 working but did not have the resources to cover even the most basic necessities- food,
21 housing, education and childcare; and

22 WHEREAS, According to a recent United Way Bay Area report, San Francisco has one
23 of the highest percentages of people living below the Federal Poverty Guideline in the Bay
24 Area, at 13%; and

1 WHEREAS, The 2017 Five-Year American Community Survey, the number of
2 residents classified as in poverty was 99,096, or 11.5 percent of all residents according to the
3 2017, but these residents ranged from a low of 5.8 percent of Supervisorial District 2 residents
4 to a high of 21.9 percent of Supervisorial District 6 residents; and

5 WHEREAS, That same report revealed that the lowest poverty rate by race/ethnic
6 group was 8.4 percent for the White population whereas the highest poverty rate was 30.8
7 percent for Blacks/African Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, In the 2017 Five-Year American Community Survey, the median
9 household income in San Francisco was \$98,531 citywide, but this amount varied significantly
10 by Supervisorial District--with the lowest reported median household income was \$56,298 in
11 Supervisorial District 6 and the highest was \$122,813 in Supervisorial District 8 which is
12 approximately 2.2 times more than the median income in Supervisorial District 6; and

13 WHEREAS, The data further revealed that Whites had the highest median household
14 income in San Francisco at \$116,102, which is over three times higher than African-
15 Americans, which had the lowest median household income at \$30,235; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Indian population had the second lowest median income at
17 \$52,756 followed by the Latinx community with \$67,282 and American Indian at \$67,500; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the largest income inequality of any other Bay Area
19 county, as top-income families earn almost 27 times more than low-income families; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco's overall food insecurity is at 16%, a greater rate compared
21 all Bay Area counties; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco residents continue to experience poverty and financial
23 hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic while billionaires nationwide have found
24 enormous growth during this same time, and according to a Wealth-X report, San Francisco
25 has significantly more billionaires per inhabitant compared to other top cities; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single \$400 emergency prior
2 to the pandemic, and rising income inequality is compounded by a growing racial wealth
3 divide; and

4 WHEREAS, Woman—particularly women of color—are the most likely to live in
5 poverty, are overrepresented in low-paying occupations, and are far more likely to lack access
6 to sick leave and health care benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, Black women are paid 66 cents for every dollar that is paid to white men,
8 and Latinas make even less at 58 cents for every dollar paid to white men; and

9 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had devastating economic impacts that are being felt most
10 acutely by the poor and the working poor and millions who live paycheck to paycheck will be
11 unable to survive for the extended duration of social distancing that is likely to be necessary to
12 avoid the worst public health effects of coronavirus; and

13 WHEREAS, Even before COVID-19, tens of thousands of San Franciscans were
14 experiencing hunger and food insecurity; and

15 WHEREAS, This crisis and its economic aftermath demand unprecedented action by
16 all levels of government; and

17 WHEREAS, The CARES Act one-time stimulus checks were insufficient to address the
18 scale of this crisis for individuals and families and left out millions of people, mostly the poor
19 and immigrant families; and

20 WHEREAS, Without providing the entire country with immediate financial assistance,
21 there will be a risk of worsening the health and economic crisis related to COVID-19 and, the
22 better we provide assistance to all people now, the quicker we'll return to work and get our
23 economy and communities thriving; and

1 WHEREAS, Unlike a payroll tax cut, which would do little to benefit our most vulnerable
2 workers, ongoing, direct cash payments put real money in the pockets of people across the
3 country; and

4 WHEREAS, These payments must include dependents and be available to non-
5 citizens, including undocumented people, permanent residents, and temporary visitors whose
6 stay exceeds three months; individuals who do not have a bank account, social security
7 number, or permanent address; people living in unincorporated territories or protectorates and
8 Americans living abroad; and

9 WHEREAS, According to polling released by Data for Progress and the Justice
10 Collaborative Institute, there is strong bipartisan support among people in the country for
11 payments on a recurring basis, with 66% of the public preferring recurring payments of \$2,000
12 until a year after the President declares an end to the federal state of emergency; and

13 WHEREAS, A movement in support of Guaranteed Income programs has gained
14 momentum nationwide, with 25 cities joining a growing coalition in support of exploring a
15 Guaranteed Income program in their respective cities; and

16 WHEREAS, California cities like Stockton, Oakland, Los Angeles, Compton, and Long
17 Beach have committed to support a Guaranteed Income model and have started Pilot
18 Programs and/or committed to creating Advisory Groups and Task Forces to explore the
19 implementation and design using philanthropy dollars; and

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports ongoing, direct
21 cash payments throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers, and calls on
22 Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell to ensure such payments are included in the next
23 stimulus package; and

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commits to
2 pursue local efforts to establish guaranteed income programs, with a focus on racial equity
3 and financial empowerment, and pursue funding to establish such programs; and

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commits to work
5 collaboratively and in coordination with the dozens of other cities that are committed to
6 implementing guaranteed income pilot programs across the country; now, therefore, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, urges formal
8 local advocacy efforts to ensure such payments are included in the final stimulus package.

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