

1 [Urging the National Park Service to Establish an Immediate Interim Activation for the Cliff
2 House Consistent with its Historic Use]

3 **Resolution urging the National Park Service to work with the community and**
4 **stakeholders to establish an immediate interim activation for the Cliff House,**
5 **consistent with its historic use, while the competitive process for a long-term tenant is**
6 **underway, and to maintain and protect the integrity of the vacant buildings and**
7 **surrounding area.**

8
9 WHEREAS, The Cliff House is an iconic landmark that was originally built in 1863 by
10 real estate tycoon Charles Butler, which at the time could only be accessed by a toll road also
11 built by Butler; and

12 WHEREAS, The Cliff House and surrounding areas were purchased by Adolph Sutro in
13 1881, where he built out the surrounding area including steam train and streetcar lines to the
14 Cliff House and nearby Sutro Baths, making them more accessible to the general public; and

15 WHEREAS, The Cliff House has been rebuilt several times over its 157 year history
16 and has continued to attract locals and visitors from all over the world; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Park Service purchased the Cliff House and surrounding
18 land in 1977 and is the current landlord; and

19 WHEREAS, Louis' Restaurant, the 83-year-old diner located one block north of the Cliff
20 House and also under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, closed permanently in July
21 2020 and has remained vacant since; and

22 WHEREAS, Seal Rock Inn Restaurant, the 46-year-old restaurant within walking
23 distance of the Cliff House, closed permanently in August 2020 and has remained vacant
24 since; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Mary and Dan Hountalas, who have been the operators of the Cliff House
2 for the last 47 years, were unable to reach a lease agreement with the National Park Service
3 and closed the doors of the Cliff House in December 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, The Outer Richmond neighborhood has felt the devastating impact of the
5 closures of all three longstanding, culturally significant, neighborhood anchoring restaurants in
6 the year 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, News of the Cliff House closing has been devastating to San Franciscans
8 as well as visitors from around the world due to its iconic nature and historic significance; and

9 WHEREAS, The Request for Proposals process for finding a long-term tenant may
10 take years to complete, which leaves this property at risk of sitting vacant for an extended
11 period of time; and

12 WHEREAS, As the City reopens and recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is
13 critical that iconic landmarks like the Cliff House be reactivated and able to attract locals and
14 tourists; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 25th, the San Francisco Travel Association, San Francisco
16 Chamber of Commerce, Golden Gate Restaurant Association, Hotel Council of San
17 Francisco, and San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations sent a joint letter to
18 United States Senator Dianne Feinstein urging her to work with the National Park Service to
19 find an immediate and possibly shorter-term use for the property, such as a restaurant, and
20 offered to assist in finding creative solutions to allow for this site to reopen; now, therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the National Park
23 Service to establish an immediate interim activation for the Cliff House consistent with its
24 historic use while the competitive process for a long-term tenant is underway; and, be it

25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the National Park Service to work with
2 residents of the Outer Richmond, communities in District 1, and stakeholders citywide to
3 establish a public serving use to reactivate this historic landmark in the short-term and long-
4 term; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the National Park Service to maintain
6 and protect the integrity of the vacant buildings and surrounding area while they work to
7 reactivate it; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit
9 copies of this Resolution to the National Park Service, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi,
10 and United States Senator Dianne Feinstein.

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25