

File No. 210315

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 31

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: April 6, 2021

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- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
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### OTHER

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Prepared by: Jocelyn Wong

Date: April 2, 2021

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Urging Major Chocolate Producers to Stop Utilizing Child Forced Labor in Global Cocoa  
2 Supply Chains]

3 **Resolution urging Mars, Nestle, and major chocolate producers to stop utilizing child**  
4 **forced labor in their global cocoa supply chains while commending ethically made**  
5 **chocolate in the wake of the announcement of Dandelion Chocolate workers**  
6 **unionizing.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, Child forced labor is endemic in cocoa production, particularly in major  
9 cocoa-producing West African nations such as Cote D'Ivoire and Mali; Côte d'Ivoire has  
10 emerged as the largest exporter of cocoa in the world, providing 70 percent of the world's  
11 supply, a majority of which is imported by multinational chocolate manufacturers to the United  
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS, In October 2020, a comprehensive study of child labor in the cocoa sector  
14 conducted by National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago and  
15 funded by the U.S. Department of Labor concluded that 1.56 million child laborers were  
16 illegally involved in cocoa production and harvesting in cocoa growing areas of Côte d'Ivoire  
17 and Ghana in the 2018/19 growing season; and

18 WHEREAS, Almost 20 years ago, major chocolate producers like Mars, Nestle, and  
19 Cargill admitted that child forced labor was prevalent in their cocoa supply chains and made  
20 public commitments to stop it; and

21 WHEREAS, The percentage of forced child laborers in the cocoa supply chain  
22 continues to increase, according to studies funded by the Department of Labor, despite these  
23 public commitments; and

24 WHEREAS, Major chocolate producers have engaged in deceptive practices to avoid  
25 taking responsibility for their long-term profiting from various forms of child slavery; chocolate

1 manufacturers like Mars and Nestle realize a financial benefit from their use of child laborers  
2 to harvest cocoa, as this keeps the price of cocoa cheaper than it would be if cocoa were  
3 harvested by paid adult workers who are given proper protective equipment; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite their knowledge of child slavery and their control over conditions  
5 in the cocoa market, major chocolate manufacturers continue to operate in the Ivory Coast  
6 with the unilateral goal of finding the cheapest sources of cocoa; these manufacturers  
7 continue to supply money, equipment, and training to Ivorian farmers, knowing that these  
8 provisions will facilitate the use of forced child labor; and

9 WHEREAS, These manufacturers' focus on profit over human welfare has driven down  
10 industry standards and facilitated gross human rights violations that break international law, all  
11 in the search of the cheapest cocoa possible; and

12 WHEREAS, These manufacturers, despite decades of assurances, have continuously  
13 failed to eradicate child slave labor from their supply chains; and

14 WHEREAS, Chocolate manufacturers who are committed to ethical sourcing have  
15 managed to source slave-free cocoa, despite having far fewer resources than multinational  
16 chocolate manufacturers; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the headquarters of chocolate companies that have  
18 taken and complied with fair-trade cocoa pledges, including Dandelion Chocolate whose  
19 workers are currently unionizing; and

20 WHEREAS, Recently, workers in the Chocolate industry and other sectors have urged  
21 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to introduce and support this Resolution condemning  
22 the inhumane child labor practices of large international players in the Chocolate industry;  
23 now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns Mars, Nestle, and other major  
2 chocolate manufacturers for their continued use of child slave labor in their cocoa supply  
3 chains, despite decades of assurances that they would stop using such; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Mars, Nestle, and other  
5 major chocolate manufacturers to honor their commitment and immediately cease use of child  
6 slave labor in their cocoa supply; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit this  
8 resolution to Mars Corporation CEO Grant F. Reid, Nestle CEO Ulf Mark Schneider, and the  
9 United Nations International Labor Organization's Director General Guy Ryder.

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# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Preston: Walton, Haney

Subject:

Calling on Mars, Nestle, and major chocolate producers to stop utilizing child forced labor in their global cocoa supply chains

The text is listed:

Resolution calling on Mars, Nestle, and major chocolate producers to stop utilizing child forced labor in their global cocoa supply chains while commending ethically made chocolate in the wake of the announcement of Dandelion Chocolate workers unionizing.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only