

1 [Urging President Biden to Extend Funding Assistance from FEMA to Maintain Non-  
2 Congregate Shelter In Place Hotels Through the Year of 2022]

3 **Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, in coordination with the Department of**  
4 **Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to**  
5 **sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of San Francisco through**  
6 **2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-Place Hotel**  
7 **alternative housing program to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable**  
8 **homeless populations.**

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10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to one of the largest  
11 homeless populations in the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, The city has identified over 8,035 people experiencing housing insecurity  
13 during the City's biennial Homeless Point-in Time Count and Survey in 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, In March 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Shelter-in-Place  
15 (SIP) order was issued by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) due to the  
16 community's need for social distancing; and

17 WHEREAS, The homeless population of San Francisco, who are more likely to  
18 possess disabilities or health problems which put them at a higher risk of acquiring the  
19 COVID-19 virus and dying from the virus, were unable to comply with these social distancing  
20 protocols due to a lack of isolation spaces available to them; and

21 WHEREAS, The City set out to find housing and shelter alternatives which allow  
22 residents of San Francisco experiencing homelessness to find and acquire spaces to social  
23 distance, to lower the rate of COVID-19 cases among unhoused individuals; and

24 WHEREAS, The City activated the first Shelter-in-Place (SIP) hotel in April 2020, after  
25 a major COVID-19 outbreak at a congregate shelter, supplying the City's most vulnerable

1 unhoused residents shelter at local hotels; and

2 WHEREAS, Since April of 2020, the City has converted 25 hotels into SIP Hotels and  
3 have sheltered over 2,000 unhoused people, but these hotels are scheduled to close  
4 operations throughout the remainder of 2021 as per the plan issued by the Department of  
5 Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH); and

6 WHEREAS, Unhoused residents of San Francisco will be pushed back out onto the  
7 streets or into congregate shelters, both of which are dysfunctional, dangerous, and do not  
8 follow SFDPH’s social distancing guidelines as the Delta Variant creates another COVID-19  
9 case surge throughout California; and

10 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) holds that  
11 “homeless services that are provided in congregate (group) settings could make the spread of  
12 infection easier;” the number of coronavirus cases among residents living in congregate  
13 housing options in the city has increased rather than decreased over the course of the  
14 pandemic; Single Occupancy Room (SRO) Hotels, which have multiple people sharing living  
15 spaces, have seen a total of 1,541 cases as of September 19, 2021; and

16 WHEREAS, Non-congregate housing options, such as SIP Hotels, are necessary in  
17 keeping homeless San Francisco residents safe by following guidelines from the SFDPH to  
18 shelter in place, maintain physical distancing, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

19 WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program gives people who are experiencing homelessness  
20 and are recovering from COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 a place to properly  
21 quarantine outside of a hospital; it also provides a safe place for isolation for people who are  
22 experiencing homelessness and at high risk for medical complications should they become  
23 infected; and

1           WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program is a preventative measure against another  
2 economic descent as a result of a citywide shutdown by decreasing the rate of COVID-19  
3 cases among San Francisco residents, and

4           WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program provides the City with additional housing support  
5 for residents who are insecure of housing, allowing the City to work further on establishing  
6 lasting and stable housing alternatives; and

7           WHEREAS, On January 21, 2021, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden directed the  
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make assistance available to local  
9 governments to fund non-congregate sheltering at 100% of federal cost share until September  
10 30, 2021; and

11           WHEREAS, An emergency ordinance was completed by the Board of Supervisors to  
12 utilize those additional FEMA funds directly and to revise the City’s plan to improve the ability  
13 of people experiencing homelessness to comply with social distancing protocols by creating  
14 non-congregate shelters; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Board values the needs and rights of extremely low-income San  
16 Francisco residents to have the capability of securing safe, affordable, and quality housing;  
17 and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
19 Francisco is committed to preserving Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Hotels for the entirety of the  
20 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges President Joseph R. Biden, in  
22 coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency  
23 Management Agency (FEMA) to sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of  
24 San Francisco through 2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-

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1 Place ("SIP") Hotel alternative housing program in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19  
2 among vulnerable homeless populations; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
4 Francisco further directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the  
5 offices of the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House  
6 of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of  
7 California upon passage.

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