[Declaring A Health Emergency]

CONCURING WITH THE FINDINGS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MENTAL HEALTH BOARD TO DECLARE A HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health is experiencing drastic budget reductions for fiscal year 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has consistently ranked amongst the top five cities with the highest cost of living and the highest commercial and residential rents in the country; and

WHEREAS, Given the exorbitant cost of living and skyrocketing rents in San Francisco, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for health care and mental health service providers to attract and retain qualified, professional staff; and

WHEREAS, The combination of spiraling cost of living and the proposed health budget cuts could potentially compromise the effectiveness and success of long-term programs such as staff and program cut backs as well as permanent discontinuation of vital services and staff positions; and

WHEREAS, Once treatment and residential programs are suspended, either temporarily or permanently, it is extremely difficult to replace those with equivalent programs; and

WHEREAS, The decrease in revenues projected by DPH for fiscal year 2000-01 are largely due to federal and state governments shifting costs to local government by disallowing Medicare and Medi-Cal claims as well as various other cuts in the national and state health budget; and

WHEREAS, The housing crisis in San Francisco is inextricably linked to the current health care crisis in which individuals who are unable to retain affordable housing are more likely to be unable to stabilize and improve their medical and mental health conditions; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Katz, Bierman
WHEREAS, Because a high number of San Francisco citizens are uninsured or underinsured, private companies are unwilling to provide adequate health coverage, thus, leaving the public health system to provide health care services at public expense; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health in general, and the Community Mental Health Services, in particular, have made significant strides forward in the past two years in implementing cost-effective measures and improved treatment standards, such as the ACCESS line, the Single Point of Responsibility Programs as well as increased utilization of state-of-the-art medications; and

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2000 the San Francisco Mental Health Board passed resolution MHB-00-08 declaring a health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health Board further asserted that local governments as well as the community has the moral duty to care for those citizens who are ill, suffering, in trouble, and in need; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health Board further emphasized that a strong and effective public health system directly benefits all neighborhoods and economic sectors of the community; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco concurs with the findings of the Mental Health Board to declare Health Emergency in the City and County of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and endorses the San Francisco Health Commission and the Department of Public Health's strategic commitment to focusing on prevention, community based services, and sub-acute services in order to decrease the City's dependency for more expensive emergency services; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges, in the strongest possible terms, that the Mayor of San Francisco as well as the Health Commission:

1. Declare a Health Emergency in the City and County of San Francisco
2. View this emergency from the larger perspective that the current funding crisis was not created by the Department of Public Health, but by larger political and economic forces
3. View this emergency from the larger perspective that San Francisco as a community clearly has the financial capacity to adequately care for those in need
4. Honor the economic reality that cutting between $15-40 million from the Health Department budget will indeed cause a significant reduction in services at a time when San Francisco citizens are already being turned away from our system without being treated or adequately served; and
5. Take appropriate and necessary actions to increase the City revenues in a fair and progressive manner, close any existing loopholes and insure that the City is generating full value on property assessments, licensing fees, and contracts;

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors supports the Health Department's request for an additional funding from the General Fund, and urges the Mayor and the Health Commission to take the necessary appropriate measures to accommodate, to fullest extent possible, any additional funding requests.
Resolution concurring with the findings of the San Francisco Mental Health Board to declare a health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco.

July 17, 2000  Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE AGENDA
July 17, 2000  Board of Supervisors — REFERRED: Finance and Labor Committee
August 21, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee
File No. 001280

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on August 21, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

September 1, 2000

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

Clerk of the Board