Resolution commending the Department of Public Health for serving as the lead agency to the Families in SROs Workgroup and the release of its Report on Families With Children Living in Single Room Occupancy Hotels in San Francisco; and adopting the report findings in order to ameliorate problems for families with children living in SRO hotels.

WHEREAS, In 1998, the SRO Hotel Safety and Stabilization Task Force was created to better coordinate emergency services for fire survivors; and,

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 457 Single Room Occupancy Hotels (SROs) are in existence with over 16,000 residential units and 27 of these hotels are master-leased by the City and/or contracted out to community based organizations for management; and as such, are routinely monitored for compliance to environmental health standards; and

WHEREAS, Of the near 900 families served by the Department of Human Services Family Shelter Placement Program during the first 9 months of Fiscal Year 2000-2001, 25% of those families identified SRO hotels as their prior living situation and 8% of those families were noted as leaving to an SRO hotel; and,

WHEREAS, Most SRO hotels are located in the Mission, Tenderloin, Chinatown, and Market South of Market neighborhoods and these hotels typically do not have refrigerators, stoves, or proper storage areas to keep food, as well, families with children typically live in a 8’x10’ room and pay hotel owners between $250 to $500 dollars per week; and,
WHEREAS, It is known that one in three hotel tenants is infected with tuberculosis, and children in shelters have shown as high as a 70% rate of delay in immunizations in comparison to 22% among poor, housed children, and

WHEREAS, It has been implied that SRO Hotels do not offer a safe and sustainable environment for San Francisco’s low income residents, seniors and children and their families; and,

WHEREAS, In 1999, SRO residents and advocated organized and recommended to city officials that issues facing SRO residents and families were not being addressed, whereby creating a “San Francisco Families in SROs Workgroup”; and,

WHEREAS, This Workgroup assisted in providing a substantive voice to SRO families and residents by delving into the issues and conditions of SRO hotels and bringing them to the forefront; and,

WHEREAS, The workgroup findings were a culmination of the work of the SRO Task Force and were submitted to city departments in April of 2001; these findings outlined the problems facing people living in SRO hotels and provided clear recommendations for the city to follow in improving the conditions at SRO hotels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby commend the Department of Public Health for serving as the lead city department for the Families in SROs Workgroup beginning the Spring of 2000; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the following recommendations forwarded by the Families in SROs Workgroup, which include: 1) Institutionalizing a continuous improvement process between departments, families, living in SROs and their advocates by having the Department of Public Health serve as the lead department to staff and coordinate the workgroup; 2) Adopting the workgroups’ goals and recommendations as outlined in the report; 3) Aggregating citywide data regarding the actual
number of homeless families, and 4) Providing routine status reports to City leadership and
the Board of Supervisors; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors adopts the following as the
membership of the Families in SROs Workgroup:

- Goal 1: Families with children move from SROs into stable housing.
The membership shall be comprised of the Department of Human Services, the
Department of Public Health, the Mayor's Office of Homelessness, the San Francisco
Redevelopment Agency and the San Francisco Housing Authority, with the Mayor's
Office of Housing serving as the lead agency to the workgroup;

- Goal 2: Families with children are preserved while residing in SROs.
The membership shall be comprised of the Department of Building Inspection, the
Department of Public Health, the Mayor's Office of Homelessness, the San Francisco
Unified School District with the Department of Human Services serving as the lead
agency to the workgroup.

- Goal 3: Families with children live in clean, safe conditions when residing in SROs.
The membership shall be comprised of the Department of Building Inspection, the
Department of Human Services, the Mayor's Office of Homelessness, the San
Francisco Fire Department, the San Francisco Police Department, with the Department
of Public Health serving as the lead agency to the workgroup.

- Goal 4: Families with children improve their socioeconomic and health status while
  residing in SROs and until housing stability is achieved.
The membership shall be comprised of the Department of Children, Youth and Their
Families, the Department of Human Services, the Mayor's Office of Homelessness, the
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the San Francisco Unified School
District with the Department of Public Health serving as the lead agency to the workgroup.
Resolution commending the Department of Public Health for serving as the lead agency to the Families in SROs Workgroup and the release of its Report on Families With Children Living In Single Room Occupancy Hotels in San Francisco; and adopting the report findings in order to ameliorate problems for families with children living in SRO hotels.

June 25, 2001 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED
June 25, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 8 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin
Absent: 3 - Newsom, Sandoval, Yee
File No. 011157

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on June 25, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.