[Allocation of Mental Health Services Act Funds.]

Resolution establishing mental health services for San Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice system as policy priorities in the Board of Supervisors’ review of the City’s submission to the State for Mental Health Services Act funds.

WHEREAS, San Francisco had 88 homicides in 2004, a 28 percent increase from the year before; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department reported that 63 of San Francisco’s 88 homicides in 2004 involved a firearm; and,

WHEREAS, As of April 19, there have been 24 homicides in San Francisco in 2005; and,

WHEREAS, Research by Hill and Jones found that more than 75% of American children and adolescents in lower-income urban areas report having been exposed to community violence; and,

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health concluded that the effects of experiencing traumatic stress, either as a witness or direct victim, are a major public health problem in the United States, with consequences of potentially severe psychological, behavioral, medical, and social dysfunction; and,

WHEREAS, The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence determined that children living in violent communities are at an increased risk for injury, developmental disorders, juvenile crime, PTSD and related anxiety disorders; and,
WHEREAS, Research by Berman et al. found that 34% of urban youths exposed to community violence have been reported to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and,

WHEREAS, Children and youth experiencing the symptoms of PTSD have impaired abilities to perform academically and socially, and have disrupted development; and,

WHEREAS, According to the California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, studies show that children exposed to violence, either as victims or as witnesses, are more likely to become juvenile or youth offenders; and,

WHEREAS, Research by Aisenberg found that mothers exposed to community violence manifest significant levels of distress symptomatology, including PTSD, depression, and anxiety; and,

WHEREAS, The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) reports that the prevalence of mental health disorders among youths in the juvenile justice system is as high as 60 percent; and,

WHEREAS, Research by Cocozza and Skowyra found that at least one in every five youths in juvenile justice facilities across the United States have what is considered to be a serious mental health disorder; and,

WHEREAS, Thirty percent of incarcerated boys and 50% of incarcerated girls suffer from PTSD, according to studies by Cauffman et al.; and,

WHEREAS, NMHA found that recidivism rates among youth in the juvenile justice system who receive mental health treatment are as much as 25% lower than the rates of those children and teens in untreated control groups; and,

WHEREAS, A 2005 congressional report, *Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for Community Mental Health Services in California*, found that the majority of California's juvenile
1 detention facilities inappropriately incarcerate youths while waiting for availabilities in
2 community mental health services; and,
3
4 WHEREAS, Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for Community Mental Health
5 Services in California reported that in a six-month period, 799 youths were held unnecessarily
6 and stayed in jails an average of two months; and,
7
8 WHEREAS, In November 2004, the voters of California approved Proposition 63, the
9 "Mental Health Services Act" (the "Act"); and,
10
11 WHEREAS, The Act imposes an additional one percent tax on taxpayers' taxable
12 personal income above one million dollars to provide dedicated funding for the expansion of
13 county mental health services; and,
14
15 WHEREAS, The Act requires each county's mental health program to prepare and
16 submit to the State an annually updated three-year plan for allocating funds available under
17 the Act; and,
18
19 WHEREAS, In December 2004 Mayor Newsom announced the formation of a task
20 force to consider proposals regarding how the funding the City receives through Proposition
21 63 should be allocated; and,
22
23 WHEREAS, Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code section 10.170 et seq. the
24 acceptance and expenditure of federal, State, or other grant funds is subject to the approval
25 by resolution of the Board of Supervisors; now, therefore, be it
26
27 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors hereby establishes mental health services for
28 San Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice
29 system as policy priorities in the Board of Supervisors' review of the City's submission to the
30 State for Mental Health Services Act funds; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That in exercising its powers in approving the acceptance and expenditure of State funds under the Act, the Board of Supervisors will take into account whether and to what degree the policy priorities as outlined in this Resolution have been addressed through the local stakeholder planning process; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City’s Mental Health Board shall submit to the Board of Supervisors its proposed three-year plan for allocating funds available under the Act, and annual updates, at a time sufficient to allow the Board of Supervisors to review and approve the plan before it is submitted to the State; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the enhanced mental health services for San Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice system shall be incorporated into the City’s other violence prevention strategies.

Supervisor Maxwell, Ammiano, Daly, Mirkarimi
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Resolution establishing mental health services for San Franciscans exposed to gun and gang violence and for youth in the juvenile justice system as policy priorities in the Board of Supervisors' review of the City's submission to the State for Mental Health Services Act funds.

May 10, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on May 10, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved
MAY 20 2005

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: May 20, 2005

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.

Clerk of the Board