Resolution urging Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to implement compassionate care programs to serve low and no income patients and provide receipts for medical services and consultation for patients to seek Medi-Cal reimbursement.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco and the State of California strongly support providing medicinal marijuana through Medical Cannabis Dispensaries ("MCD"); and

WHEREAS, This broad support is primarily evidenced by the statewide passage of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 as Proposition 215, and passage of Measure S in 2002 by the voters of the City and County of San Francisco authorizing the City and County to explore the possibility of becoming a medical cannabis producer, and

WHEREAS, This broad support is further evidenced in The California Department of Health Services recently issued “Director’s Alternate Decision” in Hearing number 2003 1062 14 (citing the California Supreme Court decision Conlan v. Bonta (2002) 102 Cal. App. 4th 745) clarifying the right of Medi-Cal recipients to directly seek reimbursement for medical cannabis expenses; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has created a regulatory framework through the Planning Department to ensure that the community has input on the siting of MCDs in order to provide a safe environment for both the patients and neighbors of the dispensaries; and

WHEREAS, The state legislature recently attempted to exorbitantly raise the fees for obtaining a Medical Cannabis ID card by which patients are permitted access the MCDs but
such fee increase was substantially scaled back in response to the public uproar it created; and,

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco aspires to ensure that MCDs provide charity care and access for low income patients in the same manner that the traditional health care industry provides charity care; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges MCDs to institute compassionate care programs to relieve the suffering of qualified low and no patients who are not able, due to income, to attain safe and legal access to medical quality cannabis as recommended by a physician for their health; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges allowing each MCD to establish a no impact responsible compassion program of their own design to provide medical quality cannabis to their low or no income collective members at a constant daily, weekly or monthly basis and giving due consideration to seniors and veterans; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges that each MCD issue receipts for medicinal services and consultation upon a patient’s request in order to be reimbursed, to the extent eligible by Medi-Cal or other programs; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges that each permitted MCD implement its compassionate care program in a manner that does not discriminate against nor deny MCD membership to any person holding a doctor’s recommendation for usage of medical cannabis based upon personal financial circumstance or diagnosis.
Resolution urging Medical Cannabis Dispensaries to implement compassionate care programs to serve low and no income patients and provide receipts for medical services and consultation for patients to seek Medi-Cal reimbursement.

November 6, 2007  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 071505

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 6, 2007 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved: 11/14/2007

Mayor Gavin Newsom