FILE NO. 150471

[Urging the Mayor to Form an Interagency Working Group to Create an Eviction Early Warning System]

Resolution urging Mayor Lee to form an interagency working group with participation from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, the Rent Board, and in coordination with the Board of Supervisors, to create an Eviction Early Warning System.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco (the "City") has historically been among the cities with the highest average rent in our country; and

WHEREAS, The City has seen significant job creation and employment growth in the past three years, seeing unemployment rates decline from 9.7% in August 2010 to 3.8% with more than 70,000 new jobs created; and

WHEREAS, The population of the City has continued to increase during the past three years of economic growth and is expected to continue growing based on national trends of increased population growth in urban areas, resulting in an increased demand for housing; and

WHEREAS, Housing production, while improving, has not kept up with the growing demand for housing, with an increase of only 2% from 1970 to 1980, 4% from 1980 to 1990, 5% from 1990 to 2000 and 9% from 2000 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, The increase in demand for housing, coupled with the lack of available supply is driving up the cost of housing and is further compounded by the loss of rent controlled housing; and

WHEREAS, The loss of rent controlled housing happens through the use of No Fault Evictions including the Ellis Act and Owner Move Ins, which can be used to remove tenants

Supervisor Christensen BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and allow buildings to be sold as Tenancies in Common, effectively removing units from the City's rent controlled housing stock; and

WHEREAS, Speculators often acquire rent controlled buildings and pursue buyouts to create condominiums which effectively removes rent controlled units from the City's housing stock; and

WHEREAS, There are trends emerging in which the Ellis Act is used by entities who buy rental buildings and repeatedly leave the rental business; and

WHEREAS, There are property owners who exhibit patterns of exploiting minor lease violations to evict tenants and then re-rent units at the prevailing market rents, resulting in displacement and decreased affordability; and

WHEREAS, Tenants are often unaware of their options and coerced into accepting unfavorable offers or giving up their rent controlled housing, often within a few days; and

WHEREAS, The City now tracks buyout offers and all eviction notice filings through the Rent Board and funds eviction defense legal services to fight evictions as well the Small Sites Program to acquire and retain rent controlled housing; and

WHEREAS, There is no system in place to alert tenant support systems in a timely enough fashion to ensure support is offered when eviction notices and buyout offers are filed; and

WHEREAS, The City should protect residents who live in the housing stock we have while continuing to build the housing our growing workforce needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City needs an Eviction Early Warning System to alert the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and the District Supervisor to put the City's eviction defense teams into action and provide immediate tenant counseling, legal services and property acquisition options; and, be it

Supervisor Christensen BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to form an interagency working group comprised of representatives from at least the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and the Rent Board to create an Eviction Early Warning System to provide such alerts by June; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor should invite members of the Board of Supervisors to participate in discussions with the working group; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That following a six-month implementation period, the working groups should report the progress of the group to the Board of Supervisors and provide guidance on how to standardize and enhance reporting of eviction filings and buyout offers to maximize the effectiveness of the Eviction Early Warning System.

Supervisor Christensen BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City and County of San Francisco Tails Resolution

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File Number: 150471

Date Passed: June 02, 2015

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May 20, 2015 Budget and Finance Sub-Committee - RECOMMENDED

June 02, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/2/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Clerk of the Board

6/12/15

Date Approved