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**Board of Supervisors calls for State and Federal action in response COVID-19 epidemic**

*Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduces resolutions urging California to enact a moratorium on foreclosures and residential and commercial evictions and the Federal government to end the ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood*

SAN FRANCISCO — In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced resolutions today at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calling on the State Legislature to enact eviction and foreclosure moratoriums for residential and commercial tenants and urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men.

“San Francisco is doing all it can locally to promote public health and support individuals and small businesses impacted by COVID-19, but we need bold action at the State and Federal level too,” said Mandelman. “It is my hope that through these resolutions, San Francisco can fast-track critically needed protections for our City’s renters, small businesses, and non-profit and arts organizations and end discriminatory Federal policies at a time when blood donations are desperately needed.”

The first resolution urges immediate action by the California State Legislature on Assembly Bill 828 by Assemblymember Phil Ting, and on Senate Bill 939 by Senator Scott Wiener. AB 828 would establish a moratorium on foreclosures and on all types of residential evictions except those related to nuisance and waste, including evictions under the Ellis Act, until 15 days after the lifting of the Governor’s declaration of the COVID-19 emergency. It would also establish a one-year recovery period during which tenants would be able to contest an eviction for non-payment of rent on grounds of economic hardship related to COVID-19. Senate Bill 939 by Senator Wiener and Senator Lena Gonzalez would establish a moratorium on any eviction of a commercial business or non-profit tenant until the Governor’s declaration of emergency is lifted.

The second resolution calls on the United States Food and Drug Administration to end the federal ban on blood donation by gay and bisexual men. Blood banks across the nation face a severe blood shortage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shelter-in-place

and social distancing orders. Last week State Senator Scott Wiener and 17 United States Senators, including Kamala Harris, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Amy Klobuchar and Cory Booker called for an end to this discriminatory ban at a time when blood donations are desperately needed.

Both resolutions are expected to be voted on by the full Board of Supervisors next Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

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