

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

**AARON PESKIN**

December 23, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors  
CC: Clerk of the Board

RE: Mayor's Latest Emergency Declaration

Colleagues,

As you may know, I am out of the country for the winter holiday legislative recess, dates that we all voted to adopt unanimously a year ago. I have received the Mayor's last-minute request to convene a Special Board Meeting the day before Christmas Eve, and unfortunately will not be able to attend for what I hope will be a robust, mature policy deliberation regarding this pressing, longstanding situation of human misery in the Tenderloin neighborhood.

As you may recall from [my memo to Mayor Breed at the outset of the pandemic](#) and my office's ongoing advocacy work on behalf of the Greater Tenderloin/Lower Polk neighborhoods, I continue to be deeply concerned with the seemingly endless and escalating crisis in these neighborhoods, which include some of District 3. Over the last two years, my office and I have met regularly with Tenderloin families, SRO residents and seniors on what they have experienced to be a general lack of concern by the City as to their collective welfare, including a general lack of interdepartmental coordination and accountability. I would respectfully posit that while the Mayor's sudden realization during the winter recess that the Tenderloin and Lower Polk communities are in crisis is odd and feels overtly political, I am hopeful that this is an opportunity for us all to work collaboratively to meaningfully address these vexing problems.

All of this to say: this warrants a serious conversation at the Board, with a true convening of all accountable parties, meaningful community participation and a full complement of the Board of Supervisors. To that end, I would ask my colleagues to consider what is, in essence, a continuance of this item to the next regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Given the laws and rules around emergency declarations, in order to properly effectuate this, today I am introducing motions that would allow for this deliberation and a decision at our first meeting in the new year. In the interim, I respectfully request that you vote to concur with the Mayor's declaration and request that the Mayor and all of her relevant Department heads confirm their attendance for a Committee of the Whole on January 4th. I want to believe that if we depoliticize this and work collaboratively together and with the community, we can finally make some meaningful progress that is driven by a real and well-thought-out plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Peskin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Aaron Peskin