Resolution declaring a public health crisis on drug overdoses and drug use, and urging the Department of Public Health to present a comprehensive plan on how to address this crisis.

WHEREAS, 70,237 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2017; and WHEREAS, Drug overdoses in San Francisco has claimed the lives of 259 people in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Fentanyl, a synthetic painkiller, is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and has surpassed prescription pills and heroin as the leading cause of opioid overdose deaths in the city; and

WHEREAS, Until recently Fentanyl was mainly concentrated in the East Coast and did not take the lives of Californians because it was used in such low levels that public health officials could not trace it as the cause of death in overdoses; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco in 2015, multiple overdose deaths were attributed to one batch of white powder that users hadn’t known contained fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, multiple deaths in San Francisco were attributed to a single supply of Xanax tablets that contained fentanyl; that same year, higher amounts of fentanyl was found in crack cocaine and methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (“DPH”) released data showing that 89 people died of fentanyl overdoses in 2018--a 300% increase from 2016; and

WHEREAS, The same DPH report also found that 39 people overdosed on fentanyl within the first quarter of 2019 alone, putting 2019 on track to surpass even last year’s numbers; and
WHEREAS According to a 2015 report on overdoses published by DPH, overdose related deaths were clustered largely within the Tenderloin/Civic Center (32.5 %) and South of Market (12.4 %) neighborhoods, both of which have a high proportion of residents living in poverty, single room occupancy hotels, and opioid-related drug arrests; and

WHEREAS, 44.9 % of opioid-related deaths occurred in these two neighborhoods while the remaining deaths were spread throughout the city, with each neighborhood recording at least one opioid overdose death; and

WHEREAS, Methamphetamine use, and associated morbidity and mortality, has been on the rise in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, From 2011 to 2016, emergency room visits related to methamphetamine use increased by 600%, and hospital admissions rose by 400%; and

WHEREAS, According to data from Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center's (ZSFG) of the 7,000 psychiatric emergency visits in 2018, nearly half were individuals who were under the influence of methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, Substance use disorder treatment admissions for methamphetamine have been increasing, with methamphetamine accounting for 19% of total admissions (third behind heroin and alcohol); and

WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving methamphetamine have also been increasing, with 87 overdose deaths involving methamphetamine in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Methamphetamine use is highly prevalent among people experiencing homelessness, with more than 50% of new clients for homeless services reporting methamphetamine use in 2015; and

WHEREAS, When a treatment bed is not available when someone is ready for care, the opportunity for engagement in treatment options is often lost; and
WHEREAS, In addition, if a stabilization bed is not available post-treatment, the benefits of treatment can decrease; and

WHEREAS, A recent study of our current substance use treatment and post-treatment options revealed that there is a demand for 1) mental health and co-occurring (mental health and substance use) residential treatment beds; 2) medical detox beds, including more flexible options for length of stay; 3) shorter-stay substance abuse treatment beds (offering 3, 5, or 7-day options); 4) extended observation beds for people leaving psychiatric emergency services; and

RESOLVED, That our City is currently suffering from a public health crisis caused by rampant substance use and overdose deaths; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Department of Public Health to present a comprehensive plan on how to address this public health crisis including but not limited to: 1) improve street level crisis response to address people who are using drugs, in psychosis, or overdosing; 2) provide regular reporting of overdoses and overdose deaths; 3) additional support for front line emergency responders and public safety personnel; 4) identify existing models of detox and drop-in centers and how to best expand those services; 5) stopping the flow of deadly drugs into San Francisco, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor of San Francisco to join the Board of Supervisors in declaring a public health crisis; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Governor and the State of California to take emergency actions to respond to this crisis; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor and our state representatives to prioritize moving forward policies that strongly support reducing the amount of overdose deaths in San Francisco; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to San Francisco’s State Legislative Delegation and the Office of the Governor of California accordingly.
Resolution: 002-20

File Number: 190984 Date Passed: January 17, 2020

Resolution declaring a public health crisis on drug overdoses and drug use, and urging the Department of Public Health to present a comprehensive plan on how to address this crisis.

December 12, 2019 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED

January 07, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/7/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

01/17/20
Date Approved

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, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

1/21/20 Date