[Encouraging Commercial, Residential Lenders, and Public Utilities to Have a 60-Day Moratorium on Default Payments for Customers Including Small Businesses]

Resolution encouraging banks, financial institutions, and public utilities to have a 60-day moratorium on default for customers, including small businesses, that are negatively impacted by financial hardship due to the impacts of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, On January 30th the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 "a public health emergency of international concern"; and

WHEREAS, On January 31st, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On February 25th Mayor London Breed made an emergency declaration to strengthen the City’s preparedness to respond to COVID-19 to ensure San Francisco was ready as much as possible for the spread of the new virus; and

WHEREAS, On March 6th the San Francisco Department of Public Health announced aggressive recommendations to proactively prevent the spread of COVID-19 in San Francisco, including but not limited to, limiting outings if you have over 60 years old, urge employees to stay home if they are sick, minimize the number of employees working within arm’s length of one another, encourage use of tele-commuting, and avoid large gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On March 9th the confirmed cases of COVID-19 have surpassed 110,000 worldwide with more than 3,996 reported deaths and 423 cases in the U.S. resulting in 19 deaths; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the rate of spread and recommendations to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, many businesses have experienced severe economic impacts due to...
loss of business and decreased revenue which has resulted in many employers reducing
hours and canceling shifts for many employees; and

WHEREAS, State and federal governments around the world have issued travel
restrictions, canceled public events and instructions to severely limit social and economic
activity which has caused the patronage to San Francisco’s small businesses to decrease;
and

WHEREAS, Small businesses are an essential engine of the San Francisco economy
with over 57,000 small businesses employing nearly 350,000 employees and accounting for
hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Many small businesses in San Francisco, like local restaurants and
retailers, operate leanly with just enough employees on staff to keep their doors open; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco economy reels from staff reductions, diminished hours,
canceled flights, hotel rooms and a sudden and severe loss of income as a result of the global
COVID-19 epidemic; and

WHEREAS, The loss of income can inhibit San Francisco residents from fulfilling their
financial obligations for their commercial, residential loans and public utility payments,
including gas, electric, water and garbage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors strongly encourages banks and other financial
institutions to take immediate action to develop an emergency assistance plan, similar to
supports offered to customers impacted by natural disasters, to halt lenders going into default
for 60 days to prevent the foreclosure and repossession of properties and to suspend fees
and penalties for late payment; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages a 60-day
moratorium on default for customers dealing with financial hardship due to COVID-19 for
public utilities, including gas, electric, water and garbage; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to all banks, financial institutions and public utilities operating in the City and County of San Francisco.
Resolution encouraging banks, financial institutions, and public utilities to have a 60-day moratorium on default for customers, including small businesses, that are negatively impacted by financial hardship due to the impacts of COVID-19.

March 17, 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 3/17/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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