Resolution recognizing March 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

[Recognizing Problem Gambling Awareness Month - March 2024]

WHEREAS, Gambling, in both legal and illegal forms, is becoming more omnipresent in our everyday lives, including through casinos and card rooms, lotteries, sports betting, online gambling, video games, Daily Fantasy Sports, internet casinos, social media games, and sweepstakes cafes; and

WHEREAS, In 2023 Americans lost a record \$111.5 billion at commercial and tribalowned casinos; and

WHEREAS, In 2023 Americans wagered nearly \$120 billion on sports, a 27.8% increase over 2022; and

WHEREAS, A 2018 NICOS Chinese Health Coalition study found that 87% of California's casino bus patrons are "probable problem gamblers"; and

WHEREAS, 6 to 8 million Americans, including more than 1.2 million Californians, meet the criteria for problem gambling and, by their gambling behavior, negatively affect the lives of another 48 to 80 million individuals: and

WHEREAS, Problem gambling is defined as gambling behavior which causes disruption in any major areas of life: psychological, physical, social, vocational, health, spiritual or emotional; and

WHEREAS, Problem gambling ("gambling disorder") has been classified by the American Psychiatric Association as an addiction with similarities to the causes and consequences of alcohol and drug dependence; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral signs of problem gambling include gambling to escape boredom, pain or loneliness, lying to loved ones to conceal the extent of gambling, needing to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve excitement, borrowing money to gamble, and trying repeatedly over time to win back money lost; and

WHEREAS, Americans gamble more money each year than they spend on groceries, betting upwards of \$900 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue impacting relationships, families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Populations at high risk for gambling problems include seniors, youth, college students, veterans, African Americans, Asian Americans, LatinX and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has classified "gaming disorder" as a mental health condition with behavioral signs mirroring those of gambling disorder; and

WHEREAS, Many video games include elements and practices of gambling such as ingame purchases of loot boxes and token wagering and could possibly condition children and youth for gambling/gambling addiction; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 8.5% of youths aged between 8-18 suffer from gaming disorder; and

WHEREAS, Only 15% of problem gamblers ever seek treatment; and WHEREAS, Numerous free resources, including self-help workbooks, phone-based counseling, individual counseling, support group counseling, residential care and a locally-based helpline (1-888-968-7888) are now available for problem gamblers and affected

individuals; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health - Community Behavioral Health Services (SFDPH–CBHS), in partnership with NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

(NICOS), made the City and County of San Francisco one of the first municipalities in the nation to offer a problem gambling prevention program to its residents, beginning in 1998; and

WHEREAS, The NICOS problem gambling program model has been replicated nationwide; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco unanimously adopted a Resolution declaring the month of March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco recognizes the outreach efforts by SFDPH-CBHS and NICOS to communities struggling with problem gambling; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will continue to support outreach, education and treatment programs for problem gamblers, in addition to strengthening prevention strategies; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the month of March 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.



## City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Resolution

File Number: 240279 Date Passed: March 26, 2024

Resolution recognizing March 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in the City and County of San Francisco.

March 26, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen,

Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 240279

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/26/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

Unsigned 04-05-2024

London N. Breed Date Approved
Mayor

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 04-05-2024

Date