[Urging Public Works and the Department of Public Health to Increase Access to Public Restrooms]

Resolution urging Public Works and the Department of Public Health to increase access to public restrooms in order to meet minimum standards as set for by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to improve sanitation for the unhoused and slow the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a declaration of local health emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which was preceded by a March 4, 2020, proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and a February 25, 2020, proclamation by the Mayor declaring the existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is currently experiencing an outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) which has been deemed a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, as of March 24, 2020, there are 398,100 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide claiming the lives of 17,400 people; and

WHEREAS, In the United State as of March 30, 2020, there are already 140,904 cases, with 2,405 deaths; in California, there are 5,763 confirmed cases, including 2,193 confirmed cases in the Bay Area, and 135 confirmed deaths in California, and 152 confirmed cases in San Francisco; with these numbers continuing to rise at a rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and prevention have found that the COVID-19 virus is present in the feces of infected individuals; and
WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to approximately 5,000 people who are living on the streets without access to bathrooms or running water; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued standards citing that in an emergency refugee camps should initially establish at minimum one bathroom per 50 refugees, with one bathroom per 20 refugees being the post emergency standard; and

WHEREAS, The American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) both have guidelines that issue a standard for toilet and handwashing station access that recommends a minimum of one bathroom per 20 people be made available in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, According to the Public Works website, San Francisco currently has 25 public bathrooms operating through the Pit Stop program, which is a ratio of one bathroom per 200 unhoused people which is well below UNHCR, American Red Cross, and FEMA standards; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Public Works and the Department of Public Health to prioritize increasing access to public restrooms and handwashing stations to the minimum standard of one bathroom per 50 unhoused individuals in order to stem the spread of COVID-19; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30 days after the passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this Resolution to Public Works and the Department of Public Health.
Resolution urging Public Works and the Department of Public Health to increase access to public restrooms in order to meet minimum standards as set for by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to improve sanitation for the unhoused and slow the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

April 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 4/7/2020 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