[Urging Statewide Action to Suspend ICE Detention Facilities]

Resolution affirming that continued operation of ICE detention facilities during the COVID-19 emergency is inhumane; and urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to take immediate action to suspend ICE detentions in California.

WHEREAS, California is home to more immigrants than any other state, and houses one of the largest immigrant detention systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, ordering residents to heed the shelter-in-place directive of the State Public Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, The threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in immigration detention facilities is dire and imminent, and individuals incarcerated in California's immigration detention facilities are some of the most vulnerable to coronavirus infection in the state; and

WHEREAS, The history of inadequate health care provisions at these detention facilities exacerbate the concern around the current health crisis, putting at risk thousands of lives; and

WHEREAS, The imprisonment and prolonged detention of asylum-seeking children and families is inhumane; and

WHEREAS, Children and families incarcerated in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) detention facilities have suffered adverse effects from their imprisonment, including documented medical neglect, psychological trauma, and persistent harassment; and

WHEREAS, In light of the federal administration’s erratic and irresponsible behavior with respect to COVID-19 and the health, safety and welfare of individuals in immigration
detention, the state must do everything in its power to protect all Californians and halt the
separation and detention of families; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory Committee on
Family Residential Centers published a report in September 2016 stating that detention is
generally neither appropriate nor necessary for families, and that detention or separation of
families for purposes of immigration enforcement or management or detention is never in the
best interest of children; and

WHEREAS, Detention facilities are designed to maximize control of the incarcerated
population, not to minimize disease transmission or to efficiently deliver health care; and

WHEREAS, This fact is compounded by often crowded and unsanitary conditions, poor
ventilation, lack of adequate access to hygienic materials such as soap and water or hand
sanitizers, poor nutrition, and failure to adhere to recognized standards for prevention,
screening, and containment; and

WHEREAS, The number of confirmed and presumed cases of COVID-19 in California
is growing, and health systems are already starting to be strained; and

WHEREAS, Social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease
Control (CDC) are nearly impossible to adhere to in immigration detention, and testing
remains widely unavailable; and

WHEREAS, In detention facilities that are already at maximum capacity, large-scale
quarantines may not be feasible; and

WHEREAS, In the face of federal inaction, states and cities have a moral responsibility
to lead; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors affirms that the continued
operation of ICE detention facilities during the current public health crisis is inhumane and
endangers the lives of detainees; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor Gavin Newsom to take immediate action to (1) call for the release of immigrants in detention, (2) halt the expansion of all immigration detentions effective immediately, and (3) suspend the transfer of individuals from California’s custody to ICE; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, upon passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Newsom.
Resolution affirming that continued operation of ICE detention facilities during the COVID-19 emergency is inhumane; and urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to take immediate action to suspend ICE detentions in California.

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

04/17/2020 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

04/17/2020 Date