Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish Safe Sleeping Sites for unsheltered people, to encourage social distancing, improve sanitation, and slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

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

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

WHEREAS, As of Saturday, April 18, 2020, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has reported 1,137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Francisco, and 20 deaths; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Homeless Point in Time Count conducted on January 24, 2019, found that there were 8,035 people experiencing homelessness, 5,180 of whom were unsheltered, with 65% of unsheltered individuals sleeping outdoors in streets, parks or tents; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has issued interim guidance regarding encampments and COVID-19, including the following: do not clear encampments during community spread of COVID-19, encourage people staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual, ensure nearby
restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials and 
bath tissues, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day, if 
toilets or hand washing facilities are not available nearby provide access to portable latrines 
with hand washing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, The City’s Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) has refocused its 
efforts on COVID-19 response including keeping areas clean, ensuring sidewalks are kept 
clear, asking people to stay one person per tent and keeping tents at least 6 feet apart; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding such efforts, encampments on sidewalks throughout the 
City have grown, largely without adequate physical distancing and without adequate sanitation 
and hygiene, posing a challenge to COVID-19 mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, Due to San Francisco’s Shelter in Place Order many publicly and privately 
owned parking garages and lots are currently unoccupied; and

WHEREAS, Cities including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Eugene and Arcata are creating 
outdoor tent camping sites to slow the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing 
homelessness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges that the City and County of San 
Francisco expeditiously plan for and establish safe sleeping sites for unsheltered people to 
encourage social distancing, improve sanitation, and slow the spread of COVID-19 (Safe 
Sleeping Sites); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Safe Sleeping Sites include marked off space for each 
tent that allows for adequate social distancing, bathrooms, handwashing stations, meals, 
drinking water, and garbage disposal, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance 
and best practices; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That each Safe Sleeping Site have a safety plan and be 
staffed 24/7 and include janitorial services and such other services as may be necessary and
practically feasible to maintain the health and safety of those at the site and the surrounding
neighborhood, consistent with Department of Public Health guidance and best practices; and,

be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That neighborhoods that are currently home to high numbers
of unsheltered people be prioritized for establishment of such Safe Sleeping Sites.

.
Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish Safe Sleeping Sites for unsheltered people, to encourage social distancing, improve sanitation, and slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

April 28, 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 4/28/2020 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