[Urging Passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816 (Chiu) - State and Local Agencies: Homelessness Plan]

Resolution urging passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu, to create a statewide planning process to reduce homelessness by 90 percent by 2029 and to hold state and local governments accountable for addressing homelessness.

WHEREAS, On any given night, over 150,000 Californians are homeless, 71% of whom are unsheltered, representing the largest unsheltered population in the nation; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s 2019 Point-In-Time Count found over 8,000 people experiencing homelessness, 5,180 of whom were unsheltered; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, comprising 6.5 percent of the overall population of California, are disproportionately represented among California’s homeless population, comprising almost 40 percent of the State’s homeless population; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, comprising less than five percent of the City’s overall population, nonetheless comprise 37 percent of the City’s homeless population; and

WHEREAS, Even as Californians exit homelessness, more fall into homelessness each year, with 150 people falling into homelessness in Los Angeles County for every 133 formerly homeless people housed, two people falling into homelessness in Oakland for each formerly homeless person housed, and three people falling into homelessness in San Francisco for each formerly homeless person housed; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, the State government has taken important steps and allocated significant one-time investments to address homelessness, but there is still no coordinated plan among state and local governments to tackle this issue; and
WHEREAS, While many local governments have made significant investments to address homelessness, others have taken no action and perpetuate myths about homelessness that allow them to shirk responsibility altogether; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no legal requirement for local governments to take steps to reduce homelessness in California; and

WHEREAS, State and local government at all levels should be held responsible for responding to homelessness and providing permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, In order to determine whether State and local jurisdictions are making the best use of existing resources, and to determine the additional resources needed to substantially reduce unsheltered homelessness in California, the State should work with local communities to determine the appropriate roles of each level of governments; and

WHEREAS, To identify the types and levels of interventions the State currently provide, and to arrive at the strategies that the State will pursue to solve homelessness, the State must conduct a gaps analysis that includes an assessment of existing resources, gaps in interventions needed to solve homelessness, and a financial analysis of the costs of filling those gaps; and

WHEREAS, There are few other areas of important public policy where government efforts to achieve a compelling societal objective are voluntary; and

WHEREAS, The State required the State’s utilities and public agencies to meet a timetable for increasing their use of renewable energy, and the State is achieving dramatic results; and

WHEREAS, Government at all levels should be obligated to spend existing resources in the most efficient and expeditious manner to reduce homelessness; and
WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 816 (AB 816), authored by Assembly Member David Chiu (D-San Francisco) would require state and local governments to provide a thorough analysis of existing homelessness programs and available resources and to identify the need for additional housing and services; and

WHEREAS, AB 816 would further require state and local governments to develop actionable plans to reduce homelessness by 90 percent by December 31, 2029, based on realistic benchmarks and existing resources, and that include specific actions that will be taken to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities among people experiencing homelessness by 2029; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Housing and Community Development would be required to review and approve those plans; and

WHEREAS, To ensure accountability, AB 816 would establish a Housing and Homelessness Inspector General that could take legal action against a state or local government for failing to submit or follow a plan; and

WHEREAS, AB 816 ensures local governments are only held legally accountable for what they are fiscally able to accomplish based on their level of existing resources; and

WHEREAS, The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and the Steinberg Institute are cosponsors of AB 816; and

WHEREAS, The bill comes out of the work of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Council of Regional Homeless Advisors, which in early 2020 proposed the creation of an enforceable, results-based accountability mandate to end homelessness, since purely voluntary efforts by a myriad of local and state agencies and billions of dollars of funding have failed without accountability; and

WHEREAS, AB 816 would create a sorely-needed statewide plan to address homelessness by establishing goals, metrics, accountability, and enforcement of progress
towards goals, holding government at all levels accountable to doing their part to end this
decades-long crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urges the passage of AB 816 to create a statewide planning process to reduce homelessness
by 90 percent by 2029 and hold state and local governments accountable to addressing
homelessness; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the State
Legislature and City Lobbyist upon passage.
Resolution urging passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816, authored by Assembly Member David Chiu, to create a statewide planning process to reduce homelessness by 90 percent by 2029 and to hold state and local governments accountable for addressing homelessness.

May 18, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/18/2021 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