Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2054, authored by Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager of District 54, to establish the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Act pilot grant program, which will promote community-based responses to local emergency situations.

WHEREAS, The California State Legislature is currently considering passage of Assembly Bill No. 2054 (AB 2054) which would establish the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Act pilot grant program to expand community organizations’ involvement in responding to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Vulnerable populations including young people of color, people with disabilities, people who are gender nonconforming, people who are formerly incarcerated, people with immigration status issues, and people who are unhoused or homeless, face significant barriers to engaging with law enforcement and other first responder personnel; and

WHEREAS, Data demonstrates that these populations often do not reach out for needed help when dealing with crises in their communities because of their fear and challenges with engaging law enforcement, putting lives and families at risk for continued harm and trauma; and

WHEREAS, AB 2054 acknowledges that while we have traditionally relied on law enforcement officers to respond to crisis, integrating a community response is essential to the health and welfare of communities with diverse backgrounds and needs; and

WHEREAS, Police presence sometimes escalates situations by causing fear in the person experiencing crisis, who is subject to both the risk of arrest and the police use of force,
and which in worst case scenarios, results in unnecessary and unjust deaths and serious bodily injury to those who simply need the care and support of trained professionals; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Police Department estimates that up to 80% of calls for service in the city are for people in mental crisis and that police officers bring close to 4,000 people to psychiatric facilities per year; and

WHEREAS, Many law enforcement officers serve as the means of transport to an emergency room, jail, or psychiatric facility, even though police are not mental health experts, crisis counselors or service providers with a track record of successfully working with vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Commission recently approved a resolution encouraging city officials to find alternatives to a police response to homelessness and AB 2054 remedies the significant, unnecessary costs associated with officers as first-responders for mental health crises, instances of intimate partner violence, and other situations that arise in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Community organizations citywide and across the state have successfully responded to emergencies affecting unhoused people, people experiencing a mental health crisis, people exposed to intimate partner or community violence, people experiencing substance abuse, and people impacted by natural or climate disasters; and

WHEREAS, Innovative community organization-based approaches have strengthened the response to emergencies in places throughout the state by deepening impact, preventing violence, deescalating volatile situations, protecting property and the environment, reducing law enforcement use of force, and ensuring the health and safety of communities while, at the same time, saving money by decreasing calls for service and the sole reliance upon first responders for emergency situations; and

Supervisors Ronen; Mandelman
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, AB 2054 recognizes the important role community based organizations play in responding to emergencies involving vulnerable populations, and that involving community organizations which have deeper knowledge and understanding of the issues, trusted relationships with the people and communities involved, and specific knowledge and relationships surrounding the emergency is cost-effective, and

WHEREAS, The state does not have a policy, a set of protocols, or dedicated funding to support community organizations’ involvement, and AB 2054 articulates a policy framework and budget request to allow to build capacity in, and to make grants for community organizations to support emergency response; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports California Assembly Bill 2054; 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 California State Legislature and the City Lobbyist upon passage.
Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2054, authored by Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager of District 54, to establish the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Act pilot grant program, which will promote community-based responses to local emergency situations.

June 09, 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 6/9/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

_____________________________                 __________________________
Angela Calvillo                 Date
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.

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Angela Calvillo                 Date
Clerk of the Board