Resolution urging members of our State Assembly and Governor to explore new
revenue generating options, including a millionaire tax to ensure safety net programs
are not cut at the state level due to an unanticipated $54.3 billion-dollar deficit as a
result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control, COVID-19, a respiratory
disease, is a serious global health threat, with over 7 million cases of infection and 404,000
deaths globally; and

WHEREAS, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on February 25, 2020, Mayor
London N. Breed proclaimed a state of emergency, followed by a proclamation of the Board of
Supervisors on March 3, 2020, and then a statewide declaration on March 4, 2020, by
California Governor Gavin Newsom; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the County Health Officer issued Order No. C19-07,
which directed residents to stay home unless essential and required businesses to cease all
in-person non-essential operations; and

WHEREAS, The pandemic has deeply impacted California’s economy as U.S.
Department of Labor data shows California’s pandemic-related unemployment claims reached
to 4.9 million, or an estimated 25% of California's workforce; and

WHEREAS, In statewide polling of likely voters in May 2020 by Binder Research
Associates for Build Affordable Faster CA, 40% of those polled had lost their jobs or had
hours or wages reduced at work due the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In the polling by Binder Research Associates for Build Affordable Faster
CA, a near-unanimous 93% of Californians expressed strong concern about the impact of the
Coronavirus epidemic on the California economy, and 70% were concerned that vital these programs and services, such as our public schools and fire departments, will be cut in the next year because of reduced tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, California now faces an unprecedented $54.3 billion deficit, which is an estimated 37% of the state’s current general fund budget due to a loss of revenue; and

WHEREAS, While the Governor’s May budget revised proposal includes $4.4 billion in new revenues, it still largely predicated on borrowing and deferrals and an even greater federal bailout that includes $14.0 billion in triggered cuts absent further federal action; and

WHEREAS, While borrowing/deferrals and a federal bailout are part of the solution, borrowed money will need to be repaid (it took over a decade to repay many of the debt obligations from the 2008 Recession) and federal reliance is tenuous given that the White House and Senate are both controlled by fiscal conservatives; and

WHEREAS, Even before the pandemic, there was great income inequality in California where according to Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), “the large gap between the state’s top earners and others has grown substantially over the past four decades,” where top income earners in the Bay Area make 12.2 times as much as those in the lowest income bracket; and

WHEREAS, According to PPIC, in their California Poverty Measure report, major safety net programs did have positive outcomes in reducing income inequality by 48%; and

WHEREAS, During a time of hardship, our most vulnerable San Francisco and California residents will rely more heavily on safety net services to survive and these programs will require additional financial investments as demand for them grows; and

WHEREAS, Making cuts to public education and state programs will have dire consequences for our most vulnerable residents, it is imperative for our state legislators to explore additional revenue options; and
WHEREAS, In the United States, as of 2013, the top 1% of households owned 36.7% of all privately held wealth according to a study by Americans for Tax Fairness; and

WHEREAS, Some U.S. billionaires gained $434 billion during the COVID-19 pandemic according to Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies' Program for Inequality; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s and 1960s, the wealthiest Americans paid a top income tax rate of 91%, compared to 43.4% today; and

WHEREAS, Polling by Binder Research Associates for Build Affordable Faster CA shows that 70% of California voters support a Millionaire’s Tax, a slight 2% increase on taxable personal income for our wealthiest Californians, or those whose yearly income is over a million dollars -- which would raise $6 billion annually -- to protect vital public and community services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges members of our State Assembly and Governor to explore new revenue generating options, including a millionaire tax to ensure safety net programs are not cut at the state level due to an unanticipated deficit; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the City Lobbyist, State Legislature, including our Senate President pro Tempore and Speaker of the California State Assembly, and our State Governor upon passage.
Resolution urging members of our State Assembly and Governor to explore new revenue generating options, including a millionaire tax to ensure safety net programs are not cut at the state level due to an unanticipated $54.3 billion-dollar deficit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

June 30, 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 6/30/2020 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