Resolution supporting ongoing, direct cash payments to residents throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers, and for the Board of Supervisors to support launching local guaranteed income programs.

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

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), which was preceded by a March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and a February 25, 2020, Proclamation by the Mayor Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued Order No. C19-07, commonly referred to as Shelter in Place, directing all individuals living in the City and County of San Francisco to shelter in place at their residence with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, In order to comply with San Francisco’s shelter-in-place orders for public health, many businesses have shut their doors, temporarily or permanently, and laid off or terminated thousands of employees; and

WHEREAS, As of July 1, 2020, 32% of American families were unable to pay their housing costs, roughly 10.1% of white workers and 15.6% of Black workers were unemployed in June and nationally 24.5 million workers are out of work because of the coronavirus; and
WHEREAS, These levels of unemployment are at historical highs, and economists have stated that despite the historic number of claims, they understate the extent of the economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act at the end of March, which includes a package of relief and stimulus programs including $500 billion for large corporations and one-time $1,200 checks to individuals; and

WHEREAS, Those workers who are eligible for unemployment insurance are still getting only a fraction of what they would otherwise earn, and the additional Pandemic Unemployment Compensation provided through the CARES Act is a short-term augmentation; and

WHEREAS, Some self-employed workers and independent contractors are now eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided through the CARES Act, but those payments are capped at $167 per week; and

WHEREAS, Neither of the unemployment benefit programs established through CARES are adequate to cover the extent and likely duration of loss of income; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 12% of the population of the United States or close to 45 million people were living in poverty and for those who are employed, nearly 7% or about 7 million people were living in poverty; that is, people were working but did not have the resources to cover even the most basic necessities- food, housing, education and childcare; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent United Way Bay Area report, San Francisco has one of the highest percentages of people living below the Federal Poverty Guideline in the Bay Area, at 13%; and
WHEREAS, The 2017 Five-Year American Community Survey, the number of residents classified as in poverty was 99,096, or 11.5 percent of all residents according to the 2017, but these residents ranged from a low of 5.8 percent of Supervisorial District 2 residents to a high of 21.9 percent of Supervisorial District 6 residents; and

WHEREAS, That same report revealed that the lowest poverty rate by race/ethnic group was 8.4 percent for the White population whereas the highest poverty rate was 30.8 percent for Blacks/African Americans; and

WHEREAS, In the 2017 Five-Year American Community Survey, the median household income in San Francisco was $98,531 citywide, but this amount varied significantly by Supervisorial District--with the lowest reported median household income was $56,298 in Supervisorial District 6 and the highest was $122,813 in Supervisorial District 8 which is approximately 2.2 times more than the median income in Supervisorial District 6; and

WHEREAS, The data further revealed that Whites had the highest median household income in San Francisco at $116,102, which is over three times higher than African-Americans, which had the lowest median household income at $30,235; and

WHEREAS, The American Indian population had the second lowest median income at $52,756 followed by the Latinx community with $67,282 and American Indian at $67,500; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has the largest income inequality of any other Bay Area county, as top-income families earn almost 27 times more than low-income families; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s overall food insecurity is at 16%, a greater rate compared all Bay Area counties; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco residents continue to experience poverty and financial hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic while billionaires nationwide have found enormous growth during this same time, and according to a Wealth-X report, San Francisco has significantly more billionaires per inhabitant compared to other top cities; and
WHEREAS, Nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single $400 emergency prior to the pandemic, and rising income inequality is compounded by a growing racial wealth divide; and

WHEREAS, Woman—particularly women of color—are the most likely to live in poverty, are overrepresented in low-paying occupations, and are far more likely to lack access to sick leave and health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, Black women are paid 66 cents for every dollar that is paid to white men, and Latinas make even less at 58 cents for every dollar paid to white men; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had devastating economic impacts that are being felt most acutely by the poor and the working poor and millions who live paycheck to paycheck will be unable to survive for the extended duration of social distancing that is likely to be necessary to avoid the worst public health effects of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Even before COVID-19, tens of thousands of San Franciscans were experiencing hunger and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, This crisis and its economic aftermath demand unprecedented action by all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, The CARES Act one-time stimulus checks were insufficient to address the scale of this crisis for individuals and families and left out millions of people, mostly the poor and immigrant families; and

WHEREAS, Without providing the entire country with immediate financial assistance, there will be a risk of worsening the health and economic crisis related to COVID-19 and, the better we provide assistance to all people now, the quicker we’ll return to work and get our economy and communities thriving; and
WHEREAS, Unlike a payroll tax cut, which would do little to benefit our most vulnerable workers, ongoing, direct cash payments put real money in the pockets of people across the country; and

WHEREAS, These payments must include dependents and be available to non-citizens, including undocumented people, permanent residents, and temporary visitors whose stay exceeds three months; individuals who do not have a bank account, social security number, or permanent address; people living in unincorporated territories or protectorates and Americans living abroad; and

WHEREAS, According to polling released by Data for Progress and the Justice Collaborative Institute, there is strong bipartisan support among people in the country for payments on a recurring basis, with 66% of the public preferring recurring payments of $2,000 until a year after the President declares an end to the federal state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, A movement in support of Guaranteed Income programs has gained momentum nationwide, with 25 cities joining a growing coalition in support of exploring a Guaranteed Income program in their respective cities; and

WHEREAS, California cities like Stockton, Oakland, Los Angeles, Compton, and Long Beach have committed to support a Guaranteed Income model and have started Pilot Programs and/or committed to creating Advisory Groups and Task Forces to explore the implementation and design using philanthropy dollars; and

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports ongoing, direct cash payments throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers, and calls on Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell to ensure such payments are included in the next stimulus package; and
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commits to pursue local efforts to establish guaranteed income programs, with a focus on racial equity and financial empowerment, and pursue funding to establish such programs; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commits to work collaboratively and in coordination with the dozens of other cities that are committed to implementing guaranteed income pilot programs across the country; now, therefore, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, urges formal local advocacy efforts to ensure such payments are included in the final stimulus package.
Resolution supporting ongoing, direct cash payments to residents throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers, and for the Board of Supervisors to support launching local guaranteed income programs.

September 15, 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 9/15/2020 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