Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of San Francisco through 2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-Place Hotel alternative housing program to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable homeless populations.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is home to one of the largest homeless populations in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The city has identified over 8,035 people experiencing housing insecurity during the City’s biennial Homeless Point-in Time Count and Survey in 2019; and

WHEREAS, In March 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Shelter-in-Place (SIP) order was issued by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) due to the community’s need for social distancing; and

WHEREAS, The homeless population of San Francisco, who are more likely to possess disabilities or health problems which put them at a higher risk of acquiring the COVID-19 virus and dying from the virus, were unable to comply with these social distancing protocols due to a lack of isolation spaces available to them; and

WHEREAS, The City set out to find housing and shelter alternatives which allow residents of San Francisco experiencing homelessness to find and acquire spaces to social distance, to lower the rate of COVID-19 cases among unhoused individuals; and

WHEREAS, The City activated the first Shelter-in-Place (SIP) hotel in April 2020, after a major COVID-19 outbreak at a congregate shelter, supplying the City’s most vulnerable
unhoused residents shelter at local hotels; and

WHEREAS, Since April of 2020, the City has converted 25 hotels into SIP Hotels and have sheltered over 2,000 unhoused people, but these hotels are scheduled to close operations throughout the remainder of 2021 as per the plan issued by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH); and

WHEREAS, Unhoused residents of San Francisco will be pushed back out onto the streets or into congregate shelters, both of which are dysfunctional, dangerous, and do not follow SFDPH’s social distancing guidelines as the Delta Variant creates another COVID-19 case surge throughout California; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) holds that “homeless services that are provided in congregate (group) settings could make the spread of infection easier;” the number of coronavirus cases among residents living in congregate housing options in the city has increased rather than decreased over the course of the pandemic; Single Occupancy Room (SRO) Hotels, which have multiple people sharing living spaces, have seen a total of 1,541 cases as of September 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Non-congregate housing options, such as SIP Hotels, are necessary in keeping homeless San Francisco residents safe by following guidelines from the SFDPH to shelter in place, maintain physical distancing, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program gives people who are experiencing homelessness and are recovering from COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 a place to properly quarantine outside of a hospital; it also provides a safe place for isolation for people who are experiencing homelessness and at high risk for medical complications should they become infected; and
WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program is a preventative measure against another
economic descent as a result of a citywide shutdown by decreasing the rate of COVID-19
cases among San Francisco residents, and

WHEREAS, The SIP Hotel program provides the City with additional housing support
for residents who are insecure of housing, allowing the City to work further on establishing
lasting and stable housing alternatives; and

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2021, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden directed the
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make assistance available to local
governments to fund non-congregate sheltering at 100% of federal cost share until September
30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, An emergency ordinance was completed by the Board of Supervisors to
utilize those additional FEMA funds directly and to revise the City’s plan to improve the ability
of people experiencing homelessness to comply with social distancing protocols by creating
non-congregate shelters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board values the needs and rights of extremely low-income San
Francisco residents to have the capability of securing safe, affordable, and quality housing;
and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco is committed to preserving Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Hotels for the entirety of the
ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges President Joseph R. Biden, in
coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency
Management Agency (FEMA) to sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of
San Francisco through 2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-
Place (“SIP”) Hotel alternative housing program in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable homeless populations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco further directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the offices of the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of California upon passage.
Resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of San Francisco through 2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-Place Hotel alternative housing program to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable homeless populations.

October 05, 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 10/5/2021 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