Resolution urging and supporting Mayor London N. Breed in proclaiming a declaration of the existence of a local emergency around the overdose crisis and immediately implementing overdose prevention sites.

WHEREAS, The United States has seen a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose deaths since the beginning of the 21st century; in a 12-month period ending in December 2020, more than 93,000 people nationwide have died from drug overdose, the largest number of drug overdose deaths for a 12-month period ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has already seen 404 deaths due to overdose this year, from January 2021 through July 2021; in the 12-month period between January 2020 and December 2020 San Francisco lost 719 people due to overdose, compared to 257 deaths due to COVID-19 disease; and

WHEREAS, Synthetic opioids and illicitly manufactured fentanyl entering the drug supply have accounted for nearly 60% of overdose deaths in San Francisco, and overdose deaths involving cocaine and psychostimulants have also been increasing; and

WHEREAS, The persistence and severity of the drug overdose epidemic calls for innovative and patient-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce other harms from drug use, while expanding access to evidence-based treatment; and

WHEREAS, Safe consumption sites (SCS), also known as supervised injection facilities (SIFs), and overdose prevention sites (OPS), are places where people may consume previously obtained drugs in a safe environment under supervision without fear of arrest. The term OPS focuses on the overall purpose of these sites, and the shift to refer to them as OPS...
rather than SIFs or SCS reflects an effort to reduce stigma and emphasize their public health
goals; and

WHEREAS, Around the world, these sites have been established in response to
community recognition of local need; the goals of OPS are primarily to prevent deaths and
reduce harms from drug use that could otherwise result in transmission of HIV and/or hepatitis
B and C, skin infections, and other ongoing health challenges; and

WHEREAS, Overdose prevention sites provide linkages to substance use disorder
treatment, primary health care, and other services, reduce public drug use and improperly
discarded syringes, and reduce barriers to care for marginalized and hard-to-reach
populations, including people who engage in sex work, people who are experiencing
homelessness or housing insecurity, and people with a history of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, On April 11, 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors enacted a
resolution charging the Department of Public Health (DPH) with convening a Safe Injection
Services Task Force whose goal is to develop recommendations on the operation of overdose
prevention programs in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force released its final
report and findings in September 2017 and the top recommendation was to support the
creation of overdose prevention services in San Francisco. “The rise in public injection drug
use and its harmful public health and safety outcomes has long reached critical mass in the
City, and this urgency is commonly felt by members of the Task Force and San Francisco
residents alike. Research consistently demonstrates that safe injection services are an
evidenced-based harm reduction strategy that can address this public health issue,” the report
stated; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force also found these
sites do not increase drug injection, drug trafficking, or crime in the surrounding environments,
that implementing these sites would not necessarily require any significant or fundamental
changes in public policy or law, and they require the same working agreements with social
service providers and the police that syringe access, street-outreach, drug treatment and
similar health programs receive; and

WHEREAS, Per the San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force Report, in 2017,
Amos Irwin and colleagues published an article titled A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Potential
Supervised Injection Facility in San Francisco, California, USA; at an estimated cost of $2.6
million annually to operate a facility based on the Vancouver program Insite, the researchers
found that each dollar spent on overdose prevention sites would generate $2.33 in savings,
for total annual net savings of $3.5 million for a single 13-booth overdose prevention site; they
further found that an overdose prevention site in San Francisco would not only be a cost-
effective intervention but also a significant boost to the public health system; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Charter, Section 3.100(14), and Chapter 7 of the San
Francisco Administrative Code empower the Mayor to proclaim the existence of a local
emergency, subject to concurrence by the Board of Supervisors as provided in the Charter, in
the case of an emergency threatening the lives, property or welfare of the City and County or
its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens
of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of two San Franciscans a day,
on average, and taking the lives of more people than COVID-19 in the last 18 months, despite
the reported over 5,000 overdose reversals with naloxone in the first part of 2021 alone, and
all available effective means should be deployed to prevent these deaths; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urge and support the Mayor in exercising executive powers and responsibilities as defined in
San Francisco Charter, Section 3.100(14), and Chapter 7 of the San Francisco Administrative
Code to proclaim a declaration of the existence of a local emergency around the overdose crisis; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco will support the Mayor by concurring with a Mayoral proclamation of emergency on the overdose crisis.
City and County of San Francisco

Resolution

File Number: 210946

Date Passed: October 26, 2021

Resolution urging and supporting Mayor London N. Breed in proclaiming a declaration of the existence of a local emergency around the overdose crisis and immediately implementing overdose prevention sites.

October 14, 2021 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

October 14, 2021 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

October 26, 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 10/26/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
London N. Breed
Mayor

11/05/2021
Date Approved

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

11/8/2021
Date