[Supporting the Intent to Hire Healthcare Workers or other Essential Workers Due to COVID-19]

Resolution supporting the hiring of healthcare or other essential workers amidst an unprecedented global pandemic, by indicating the Board of Supervisors’ non-binding intent to appropriate revenue generated by a November 2020 overpaid executive tax ballot measure.

WHEREAS, Our nation continues to experience an outbreak of COVID-19, 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, Frontline healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, mental health care workers, and In-home Support Service providers have been the first line of defense in stopping the spread of COVID-19, often putting themselves in great risk of contracting the virus from various patients that they come into contact with every day; and

WHEREAS, Even before COVID-19 posed a risk to the United States, many hospitals around the country - including San Francisco General Hospital - were incredibly short of nurses and other frontline health care workers.

WHEREAS, The pandemic isn’t over; cities around the country are preparing for a spike in the curve by stocking up on medical equipment and hiring nurses, doctors, first responders, and other essential healthcare workers; San Francisco needs to be ready when the next wave hits; and
WHEREAS, The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors recently passed Mental Health SF and are committed to funding the following programs to fix our broken mental health system: 1) create a street-crisis response team to treat people suffering from a mental health crisis; 2) begin hiring case managers for people with mental illness or substance abuse disorders; 3) creating a new centralized office meant to ensure patients progress seamlessly through the city’s network of services, and

WHEREAS, In the last 30 years, executive salaries across the country have sky-rocketed by 940%. But regular workers’ salaries have grown by just 12%. According to the Economic Policy Institute, CEOs aren't getting these million-dollar raises because they've increased productivity or even have high-demand skill sets. They make more money simply because they have the power to set their own salaries. The Economic Policy Institute says that “the economy would suffer no harm if CEOs were paid less or taxed more”; and

WHEREAS, 467 billionaires in America increased their wealth by an estimated $731.8 billion during the COVID-19 pandemic, have found substantial growth during the pandemic, and continue to profit off average Americans; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has significantly more billionaires per inhabitant compared to other top cities; a Wealth-X report estimates one billionaire for approximately every 11,600 residents; and

WHEREAS, Research from the Public Policy Institute of California, which analyzed 2018 U.S. Census bureau data, found that the Bay Area has the highest income inequality of California. Top income earners in the Bay Area make 12.2 times as much as those at the bottom of the economic ladder; and

WHEREAS, One of the purposes of a November 2020 ballot measure, proposed by Supervisor Matt Haney, is to promote our city’s economic recovery in the pandemic’s aftermath by raising up to $140 million annually from the Overpaid Executive Tax; and
WHEREAS, The ballot measure would impose an additional gross receipts tax or an administrative office tax on businesses with a greater than 100:1 ratio of the compensation of the business’s highest-paid managerial employee to the median compensation paid to the business’s employees based in the City; and

WHEREAS, If the voters pass the Overpaid Executive Tax, most large corporations in San Francisco that pay their highest-paid executive more than 100 times the amount they pay their median worker will have a tax of at least 0.1% of their gross receipts added to their annual business tax payment; the more inequity between the overpaid executive and their workers, the higher the surcharge; for example, if the top executive receives more than 200 times the compensation of the median employee, then it's a 0.2% surcharge; more than 300 times gets a 0.3% surcharge; more than 400 times gets a 0.4% surcharge; and so on, capping off at a 0.6%. Small businesses are exempt from the tax entirely; and

WHEREAS, Any and all funds raised by the Overpaid Executive Tax will be deposited into the General Fund, and while not dedicated to any particular purpose, the Board of Supervisors by this Resolution expresses its non-binding intent that such funds will be used to hire healthcare workers, emergency responders, mental healthcare workers, or other essential city workers; and

WHEREAS, The funds generated by this proposed tax could make great strides in alleviating the economic hardships of coronavirus; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to support the hiring of healthcare workers, emergency responders, or other essential workers by appropriating funds raised by the Overpaid Executive Tax ballot measure to hire and support these workers.
Resolution supporting the hiring of healthcare or other essential workers amidst an unprecedented global pandemic, by indicating the Board of Supervisors’ non-binding intent to appropriate revenue generated by a November 2020 overpaid executive tax ballot measure.

File No. 200980

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/8/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Signature]
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.

[Signature]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

12/18/2020

Date Approved

London N. Breed
Mayor

12/18/2020

Date