

1 [Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Policy]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to implement a smoke-**  
3 **free multi-housing policy in San Francisco if additional considerations are**  
4 **addressed.**

5 WHEREAS, Over 50% of San Franciscans live in multi-unit housing (MUH); and

6 WHEREAS, Low-income people of color are more likely to live in multi-unit  
7 housing; and

8 WHEREAS, Smoke-free multi-unit housing is the absence of tobacco and  
9 cannabis smoke from a residential building with two or more housing units, while still  
10 allowing people to smoke in designated areas and protecting others from second and  
11 third-degree smoke; and

12 WHEREAS, Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death worldwide,  
13 responsible for over 8 million deaths each year, including 1.2 million non-smokers  
14 exposed to secondhand smoke; and

15 WHEREAS, Exposure to secondhand smoke most significantly impacts young  
16 children, the elderly, pregnant persons, and the immunocompromised, causing  
17 approximately 41,000 deaths among non-smoking adults, 50,000 deaths among  
18 children younger than 14 years, and 400 infant deaths each year in the United States  
19 alone; and

20 WHEREAS, Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at higher risk of  
21 developing health issues such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute  
22 respiratory infections, ear infections, and severe asthma. This higher risk is due to their

1 developing lungs, faster breathing rates, and, most importantly, a lack of control over  
2 their living environments; and

3 WHEREAS, According to a 2022 study by the National Low Income Housing  
4 Coalition, San Francisco is the most expensive county in the Bay Area, yet the only  
5 county without a smoke-free housing policy; and

6 WHEREAS, 100 total surveys on smoke-free housing were conducted by Youth  
7 Policy Leaders at Bay Area Community Resources across all eleven districts, in three  
8 different languages, with the most responses from districts 1 and 5. Input was also  
9 provided from community-based organizations in family and youth services; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly half of respondents (48%) reported smelling smoke at least  
11 once per week; and

12 WHEREAS, 59% of respondents believed that a smoke-free policy in their  
13 building would benefit their family; and

14 WHEREAS, Bay Area health experts recommend a smoke-free housing policy  
15 that prioritizes equitable enforcement and resident education rather than eviction; and

16 WHEREAS, The current SF-MUH plan calls for “a comprehensive SF-MUH  
17 ordinance prohibiting the smoking of cannabis, tobacco, and e-cigarettes inside private  
18 units and common areas of multi-unit housing (2+ units) in the city and county of San  
19 Francisco”; and

20 WHEREAS, The current plan calls for the policy to be enforced and maintained  
21 by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) by January 2030 in  
22 partnership with landlords. Partnering with community health and housing partners, the  
23 process of developing rules and regulations of enforcement will take 9-12 months; and

1 WHEREAS, The current SF-MUH plan includes equitable resources and  
2 education materials on smoke-free options, including enforcement tips/guidelines; and

3 WHEREAS, Further and more expansive research should be conducted with  
4 tenant and apartment associations to form clear guidelines on how the policy will be  
5 enforced as tenants have expressed concerns about clear enforcement and what  
6 strategies, other than education, will be used to prevent eviction if a resident is unable  
7 or unwilling to stop smoking; and

8 WHEREAS, As a part of a smoke-free housing policy, a clear and equitable plan  
9 should be developed for how and where to designate smoking sites; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges further outreach and  
11 surveying to inform residents of the policy and gather more community data, and urges  
12 the City to learn from the successes and challenges of similar policies in other Bay Area  
13 counties such as Alameda and San Mateo counties; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission believes that guidelines on  
15 where to smoke from the city and building management will result in health benefits for  
16 the greater community, especially for children and youth who are particularly vulnerable  
17 to secondhand smoke at home; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor  
19 and the Board of Supervisors to outline and implement a standardized smoke-free multi-  
20 unit housing policy in San Francisco if the following recommendations are addressed: 1)  
21 ensure clear enforcement guidelines, 2) implement strategies to prevent eviction, 3)  
22 designate equitable smoking sites, 4) conduct further community outreach, and 5) learn  
23 from similar policies in other Bay Area counties.