

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, Second hand smoke is the inhalation of smoke, by individuals other
9 than the active smoker. Third hand smoke is the toxic residue left behind after smoking,
10 that can be found on surfaces, in dust, and on people's skin and clothing. It can be
11 inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin; and

12 WHEREAS, Smoke-free multi-unit housing is the absence of tobacco, cannabis,
13 and e-cigarette smoke from a residential building with two or more housing units, while
14 still allowing people to smoke in designated areas and protecting others from second
15 and third-hand smoke; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at higher risk of
2 developing health issues such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute
3 respiratory infections, ear infections, and severe asthma. This higher risk is due to their
4 developing lungs, faster breathing rates, and, most importantly, a lack of control over
5 their living environments; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor
23 and the Board of Supervisors to outline and implement a standardized smoke-free multi-

- 1 unit housing policy in San Francisco if the following recommendations are addressed: 1)
- 2 ensure clear enforcement guidelines, 2) implement strategies to prevent eviction, 3)
- 3 designate equitable smoking sites, 4) conduct further community outreach, and 5) learn
- 4 from similar policies in other Bay Area counties.