

Resolution Calling for a Moratorium on Rent and Mortgage Payments and a Moratorium on all Evictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sponsors: Gallotta, Avalos, Thomas, Mahogany, Li, Ibanez, Williams, Hsieh

WHEREAS, San Francisco, like many communities throughout California and the country, has been deeply impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and many residents have lost their jobs and are experiencing significant economic hardship as a result of the City's Public Health Order to close non-essential businesses, including difficulty in paying their mortgage or rent especially given that the the average monthly rent for an apartment in San Francisco is now \$3,700, the highest in the country and low income San Franciscans continue to face severe housing cost burdens of 50% or more of income; and

WHEREAS, while San Francisco Mayor London Breed has ordered a 30-day moratorium on residential and commercial evictions for nonpayment of rent due to COVID-19 loss of income, renters are still obligated to pay landlords, and mortgage-holders are still obligated to pay lenders, and under Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order landlords can still initiate evictions if tenants cannot make the rent, meaning many tenants in California could lose their homes in the next few months, and due to the Ellis Act, tenants throughout the state are currently still subject to eviction if a landlord decides to proceed with a unit remodel or take the unit off the rental market; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that San Franciscans who currently have housing are not made homeless or destitute because of this public health crisis due to a burdensome obligation to either pay rent or defer rent payment and accumulate significant personal debt, and while no rent relief program is currently in place at the national level, an immediate moratorium on mortgage payments would eliminate the urgent need for landlords to continue to collect rent; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee calls on Governor Newsom to use emergency powers to impose an immediate moratorium on all evictions, including evictions currently permitted under the Ellis Act, as well as a moratorium on rent and mortgage payments so that no San Franciscan should be required to pay rent during this health emergency or have to accumulate debt for unpaid rent or mortgage; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee urges Congress to pass legislation imposing an immediate moratorium on mortgage payments and rents, such that no owner of property in the country be required to pay a mortgage during this health emergency or have to accumulate additional debt for unpaid mortgage payments.

Approved by Acclamation

Abstention(s): Pelosi, Kounalakis, Ma, Cohen, Wiener, Ting, Chiu

Resolution in Support of Emergency Actions to Secure Hotel Rooms and Immediately Shelter and Protect Homeless San Franciscans from COVID-19

Sponsors: Gallotta, Avalos, Hsieh, Mahogany, Berry, Williams, Dufty, Baraka, Lovett, Campos

WHEREAS, The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is a growing threat to the health and safety of all San Franciscans, especially vulnerable populations like older adults and people who have serious underlying medical conditions, and according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, “People experiencing homelessness often have a higher risk for exposure to communicable diseases and have little access to health care systems and treatment in their communities;” and

WHEREAS, as of the latest Point in Time Count, there are 8,035 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, over 5,000 of whom are unsheltered; and while the City’s network of homeless shelters provide safety in normal times, during the current pandemic any congregate living arrangement increases the risk of transmission and crowded conditions in San Francisco’s emergency shelters run contrary to the City’s social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, latest reports indicate that over 90 people tested positive for COVID-19 at San Francisco’s largest homeless shelter, which has exposed the real and immediate need to house homeless San Franciscans in non-congregate settings such as in hotels, especially given that San Francisco currently has more than 40,000 empty hotel rooms available; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee calls upon City leaders to take immediate emergency action to procure 8,250 hotel rooms by April 26th in order to shelter unhoused San Franciscans and prevent community spread of COVID-19, and to allocate sufficient resources for the cleaning of rooms and common spaces and cleaning supplies while ensuring the health and safety of the people cleaning; and therefore

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee urges City leaders to put a clear, transparent and actionable plan in place for moving unsheltered residents into private hotel rooms while protecting people’s health and dignity and also ensuring sufficient access to COVID-19 testing for all unhoused San Franciscans and the frontline staff that serve them.

Approved by Acclamation

Abstention(s): Ma, Cohen, Wiener, Ting, Chiu

**Resolution Calling for Economic Relief to Support Undocumented Workers During the COVID-19
Pandemic**

Sponsors: Lovett, Avalos, Gallotta, Williams, Campos, Hsieh, Ibanez, Chiu, Berry, Moliga, Baraka, Dufty

WHEREAS, undocumented workers pay state and local income taxes, contributing more than \$3 billion total in taxes, and participate in the labor force in essential businesses including agricultural production as well as jobs impacted by the COVID-19 crisis such as restaurant, construction, hotel work and in-home services; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has shut down many of these businesses across the state, leaving undocumented immigrants out of provisions in the federal CARES Act for stimulus payments, expanded unemployment benefits (with some exceptions), and small business loans and programs; and undocumented families and low-income workers are ineligible for public assistance such as Medicaid, food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, while mixed status families and immigrant communities experience a chilling effect from the Trump administration's Public Charge that discourages needed public assistance; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of 125 groups have called on Governor Newsom to protect all workers including the undocumented whose lives and livelihoods are in jeopardy from the COVID-19 shutdown orders, and several San Francisco Supervisors are introducing a stimulus package for the city that includes undocumented workers, along with community efforts to raise funds in several municipalities--efforts that do not supplant the need for statewide action;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee reaffirm its strong support for immigrant families in California and urges the California State Legislature to pass legislation urged by the California Latino Legislative Caucus and California Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to provide a Disaster Relief Fund for undocumented workers and remove restrictions on Earned Income Tax Credit benefits to include all Californians as beneficiaries of the program, regardless of citizenship status; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee calls on the Governor of California to take immediate action to support undocumented workers and small business owners to mitigate the disproportionate impact caused by COVID-19 in our communities.

*Approved by Acclamation
Abstention(s): Wiener, Ting*

Resolution Urging Congress to Pass Legislation in Response to COVID-19 that includes Medicare for All, Frontline Worker Protections, and Healthcare Services Infrastructure

Sponsors: Avalos, Gallotta, Campos, Dufty, Baraka, Berry, Hsieh

WHEREAS, as the Novel Coronavirus pandemic rages on, the United States is now facing its worst crisis in modern history that will lead to millions of Americans contracting the COVID-19, the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans, an economic downturn that could be worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s and the St. Louis Federal Reserve estimating unemployment to reach over 47 million by the end of June and millions of Americans losing their employer based healthcare at a time when Americans are most in need of access to healthcare services and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has lifted the veil on deep inequities in the United States economy and health care system that is manifested in millions of Americans who have inferior and costly health insurance plans that offer little affordable access; overstretched and overexposed essential workers and frontline medical staff who are putting their lives at greater risk with no additional compensation for working in hazardous conditions to keep the U.S. economy on life support and providing essential services as well as fighting the coronavirus to save lives; tens of thousands of workers with inadequate paid time off will have to go into quarantine if they test positive for COVID-19 and many workers do not have adequate family support should they get sick and can no longer work or worse should they die; and

WHEREAS, these huge disparities in healthcare outcomes across the United States particularly impact low income Americans, seniors, and people of color who have greatest vulnerabilities due inferior and inadequate access to healthcare having the highest incidents of mortality under the pandemic; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee calls upon the United States Senate and Congress to enact legislation to extend immediate financial relief and support for all unemployed workers, including increased hazard pay, increased family benefits for frontline essential workers and health care workers including additional benefits for families to contend with sickness and death; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to meet the needs of every American under this pandemic and to be prepared for future pandemics, the United States Senate must immediately enact omnibus legislation to guarantee Medicare for All and create consistent and adequate public infrastructure to ensure the supply of medical equipment, personal protective equipment PPE and pharmaceuticals necessary to meet this pandemic and future pandemics, in order to ensure high quality healthcare, including mental and behavioral healthcare, is available for all residents of the United States.

Approved by Acclamation

Abstention(s): Pelosi, Speier, Ma

Resolution Acknowledging Systemic Racial Inequities and Calling for a Coordinated Response to Support the Black Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sponsors: Williams, Berry, Baraka, Lovett, Thomas, Gallotta, Ronen, Mahogany, Mandelman, Chen, Ibanez, Loftus, Ma, Speier, Pelosi, Kounalakis, Dufty, Lovett, Cohen, Hsieh, Moliga

WHEREAS, In America, we have seen that every major crisis or catastrophe hits communities of color the hardest. The Trump administration's response to COVID-19 is inadequate. Civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson when asked about the pandemic and its impact on the Black community stated that, "It's America's unfinished business — we're free, but not equal." According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, health concerns about COVID-19 are much higher among Latinx and Black people in the United States. While 18% of white adults are "very concerned" that they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization, 43% of Latinx and 31% of Black adults say they are "very concerned" about that happening. The Center for Disease Control released data that shows 30% of 111,633 infected patients whose race is known were Black. Black patients in the 45-to-64 and 65-to-74 age groups represent a larger share of the national caseload and,

WHEREAS, Longstanding widespread racism and discrimination against the Black community has resulted in chronic physical and psychological stress, lack of access to health care, housing, healthy food and education, as well we environmental contamination, over policing, incarceration, and limited economic opportunities. These social determinants of health make the Black community more susceptible to COVID-19. Black communities are more likely to be uninsured and, when seeking care, their ailments are often not taken seriously by medical providers. Given this experience, there is widespread distrust of the health care system in Black communities.. Health conditions such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and asthma are present at higher rates in the Black community. These comorbidities make Black people more susceptible to COVID-19. As a result there are 200 preventable deaths in Black communities in the US every day. Black maternal mortality and preterm birth rates, which are alarmingly high, are likely to increase given impact of COVID-19 and,

WHEREAS, Black workers are more likely to be employed in the gig economy, and be paid hourly, jobs that deny them health benefits or sick leave. As a result, they are less likely to be able to stay home. Black people have less access to PPE and are less likely to have the ability to engage in social distancing due to living conditions and their disproportionate representation among essential workers. Black communities are more likely to be victims of racial profiling and there is real fear of wearing masks to protect against COVID-19 because of this experience. San Francisco's Black population is less than 5%, but approximately 50% of the jail population. Even with COVID-19 related reductions to the jail population, Blacks are still overrepresented. Vice President Mike Pence and Surgeon General Jerome Adams held a press conference with Black leaders and stated that the federal government is increasing testing, outreach, and social and financial supports for the Black community, so therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and the hospital system, in addition to collecting race and ethnicity data, create a system to track and monitor the experience of care and outcomes of Black patients impacted by COVID-19. The Department should outline clear strategies to blunt the devastation of COVID-19 on Black and other communities of color by working in collaboration with departments across the City and County of San Francisco including the Police and Sheriff's Departments to mitigate the disproportionate impact of enforcement of the masking order on Black and other communities of color and therefore be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that San Francisco seek federal resources to conduct direct outreach to the Black community that includes but is not limited to social and economic supports, testing, protective measures for incarcerated people, access to PPE and additional interventions to reduce the spread and compounded health impacts of COVID-19. The SF DCCC will send a letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar urging the collection and release of COVID -19 race and ethnicity data.

Approved Unanimously

Emergency Resolution Calling on the Department of the Treasury to Protect Stimulus Payments From Garnishment by Debt Collectors

Sponsors: Thomas, Campos, Williams, Gallotta, Ronen, Mahogany, Mandelman, Chen, Ibanez, Baraka, Loftus, Ma, Speier, Pelosi, Kounalakis, Dufty, Lovett, Cohen, Berry, Moliga

WHEREAS, The CARES Act of 2020 intends to provide emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, in part, by providing direct recovery rebate benefits to individuals (CARES Act Sec 2101) - Existing Federal law requires that benefits be protected from garnishment by establishing procedures that a financial institution must follow when served a creditor garnishment order against an account holder into whose account a Federal benefit payment has been directly deposited (31 CFR § 212.1); and

WHEREAS, The CARES Act protects stimulus checks from being reduced to pay certain debts owed to federal and state governments but does not specifically address garnishment or bank offsets for other debts. Instead, it gives the Department of the Treasury the authority to issue rules and guidance to carry out the purposes of the stimulus payments. The misclassification of such payments results in the inappropriate creditor confiscation of federal stimulus payments to vulnerable taxpayer recipients in a manner that is contrary to the underlying economic intent of the payments; the confiscation prevents the intended recipients from paying for food, rent, medicine and other necessities during the COVID-19 crisis. (National Consumer Law Center, U.S. Treasury Must Protect Stimulus Payments From Garnishment by Debt Collectors, April 1, 2020); and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Treasury has the authority to classify direct recovery rebate benefit payments to individuals as protected payments, requiring financial institutions to carry out legally required protections against creditor garnishments as laid out in 31 CFR § 212.6 - The Department of the Treasury has not utilized the classification tools available to it to protect direct recovery rebate benefits to individuals as provided under section 2101 of the CARES Act as described in 31 CFR 212.3; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the San Francisco Democratic Party calls upon the Department of the Treasury to use its authority to take immediate action to properly classify direct recovery rebate payments to individuals as benefits with the same protections against creditor garnishment and bank fees as Social Security and other federal benefits.

Approved Unanimously

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESS DIRECTING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATORY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS NEEDED SUPPORTS

Sponsors: Loftus, Dufty, Hsieh, Li, Mandelman, Moliga, Campos, Williams, Gallotta, Lovett, Tung, Raju, Thomas, Cohen, Ibanez

Whereas; Today, there are an estimated 70 million Americans living with a criminal record, the vast majority of whom have paid their debt to society and have demonstrated their commitment to abiding by the law, and

Whereas; These 70 million people face significant barriers to success and stability: a network of hundreds of restrictions on employment, housing, education, and other key support systems that are more critical than ever to their families' stability, safety, and economic security, and

Whereas: The CARES Act is an incredibly important bill that included desperately needed economic supports like the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. However, in implementing the CARES Act, the Small Business Administration (SBA) imposed unnecessary and counterproductive restrictions based on a prior criminal record. These restrictions run counter to the intent of the legislation and are more restrictive than existing SBA regulations for small business loans. Locking people out of support programs and contributing to their economic destabilization will only harm them, their families, and their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic Party supports Congress directing the SBA to eliminate these eligibility restrictions as a part of any appropriation to continue these programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi and members of the United States Congress.

Approved by Acclamation

Abstention(s): Pelosi

Resolution Condemning Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia and Urging Stronger Governmental Response to Prevent and Address Hateful Attacks on the Asian American Community

Sponsors: Chen, Hsieh, Kim, Li, Lovett, Moliga, Gallotta, Campos, Mahogany, Williams, Ibanez, Tung, Thomas, Chiu, Avalos, Mandelman, Berry, Pelosi, Ting, LaCroix, Speier, Cohen, Dufty, Ma, Haney, Loftus, Ibanez, Ronen

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization and the United States Center for Disease Control’s guidelines on naming infectious diseases advise against using geographic-based names to avoid the stigmatization of locations and ethnicities, yet the Trump White House Administration further incites racism through the offensive and inappropriate usage of terms “Chinese virus,” “Wuhan virus,” and “Kung Flu,” to refer to COVID19; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a dark-stained history of scapegoating Asians and Asian Americans dating back to the 1800’s blaming major crises on Chinese migrant workers and using this to justify racist policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act, fumigation of Chinatowns, unwarranted quarantines, deportations, or denial of healthcare of Chinese residents; and xenophobia and anti-Chinese sentiment was already on the rise prior to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States, with many Asian-owned businesses and Chinatowns facing economic loss and backlash and a rise in violent, hateful attacks on Asian Americans as documented by the “Stop the APPI Hate” Reporting Center, started by Chinese for Affirmative Action and Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON), with over 1,500 reported incidents of harassment or discrimination, with 40% originating from California; and

WHEREAS, Despite the lack of a strong coordinated Federal governmental response, the growing occurrence of violent attacks and public pressure led to the United States Department of Education to issue guidance to schools to prevent bullying of students of Asian descent, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to issue a statement on prioritizing anti-Asian hate crimes, and national Democratic Party leaders to call on the United States Commission on Civil Rights to issue further guidance to Federal agencies to prevent and address anti-Asian racism and xenophobia related to COVID-19; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Democratic Party condemns all forms of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia including the derogatory uses of the terms like “Chinese virus” and will actively join outreach, communication, and advocacy efforts to prevent attacks against the Asian American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Democratic Party calls on local, state, and national officials and city agencies to show support for the Asian American community by investing in outreach, staffing, and education efforts that offer relief and safety for Asian American residents, including, but not limited to, multi-lingual assistance in reporting hate crimes, access to mental health support, and additional protections to remove barriers in accessing economic relief programs, including the United States Commission on Civil Rights taking a firm stand in issuing formal guidance to Federal agencies to prevent the dangerous spread of anti-Asian sentiment and provide culturally appropriate, multi-lingual support for Asian Americans.

Approved Unanimously