

SF DCCC RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING SYSTEMIC RACIAL INEQUITIES AND CALLING FOR A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO SUPPORT THE BLACK COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Introduced by Shanell Williams, Co-sponsors: Gloria Berry, Keith Baraka, Li Miao Lovett, AJ Thomas, Peter Gallota, Honey Mahagony, Leah Lecroix

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. Thank you to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman Karen Bass and Congresswoman Barbara Lee for the #Releasethe data bill that calls for the CDC to report racial data which passed the Senate, 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.