



**PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR DECLARING
THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

Drug Overdoses in the Tenderloin

WHEREAS, California Government Code Sections 8550 et seq., San Francisco Charter Section 3.100(14), and Chapter 7 of the San Francisco Administrative Code empower the Mayor to proclaim the existence of a local emergency, subject to concurrence by the Board of Supervisors as provided in the Charter, in the case of an emergency threatening the lives, property or welfare of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) or its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Deaths from drug overdose are at epidemic levels in San Francisco. While the problem has gotten worse over the past few years and particularly over the course of the pandemic, recently the threat to public health, safety and welfare has become much graver and more imminent in the Tenderloin (as defined below) and demands emergency action; and

WHEREAS, Deaths attributable to drug overdose in San Francisco have increased over 200% since 2018. In 2020, over 700 individuals died from drug overdoses. The number of deaths in 2020 from drug overdose far exceeded the number of individuals who died of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the overdose epidemic in San Francisco. In the eight months before the Health Officer issued the Shelter-In-Place Order (March 2020), the median number of weekly overdose deaths was 10, which increased to 15 after the Order, representing a 50% increase. During this period, there was a significant increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness dying from drug overdoses; and

WHEREAS, A main contributor to the rapid rise in drug overdoses and deaths in San Francisco is the recent increase in the prevalence of fentanyl in the illegal drug market. Fentanyl is highly addictive and potent, and it is more likely to lead to overdose than other drugs in common use today. There has been a significant increase in the deaths attributable to fentanyl since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fentanyl was a factor in more than 70% of overdose deaths between January and October 2021, an increase of nearly 20% since 2019. Over the past year, the San Francisco Police



Department has confiscated over 23 kilos of fentanyl – more than four times the year before; and

WHEREAS, As the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has begun to improve, the drug overdose crisis in the City has continued unabated. Between January and November 2021, nearly 600 San Franciscans died of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, The Tenderloin neighborhood and the surrounding area, including the South of Market neighborhood, are the epicenter of the overdose crisis in the City. Between January and October 2021, 21% of overdose deaths occurred in the Tenderloin, with an additional 20% of deaths occurring in the South of Market neighborhood. These areas make up only 7% of the City’s population; and

WHEREAS, Contacts between clients and the City’s non-profit partners running needle exchange programs in the Tenderloin increased nearly 30% in the period between July and September 2021 compared to the previous three months; and

WHEREAS, The crisis in the Tenderloin has worsened in recent months. One of the City’s non-profit partners reported an over 35% increase in the distribution of Narcan in the Tenderloin between October 2021 and November 2021. Narcan is used to revive someone experiencing an overdose; and

WHEREAS, Emergency medical calls for service designated as calls for a “sick person” in the Tenderloin have increased more than 150% between June and November 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, and medical calls for service for all reasons during this time period also increased, indicative of serious public health issues likely attributable to the opioid crisis in the area; and

WHEREAS, Other indicators of the opioid crisis in the Tenderloin are also present; street conditions in the Tenderloin and surrounding area have deteriorated in recent months. Calls to 311 concerning human waste, needles, and garbage on streets and sidewalks increased significantly between the fall of 2020 and the fall of 2021; and

WHEREAS, There was a 38% increase in calls to the City’s Street Overdose Response Team between October and November 2021, and a 44% increase in calls regarding drug overdoses in the same period; and



WHEREAS, The rapidly deteriorating conditions in the Tenderloin caused by the opioid crisis put the lives of San Franciscans at serious risk, and the City must take action beyond the City’s ordinary response capabilities, including re-appropriating resources to address the crisis, directing personnel from City departments to assist with the response, implementing crisis response sites for individuals to obtain medical help and services, and quickly procuring goods and services to address the crisis; and

WHEREAS, Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor proclaims that all of these conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency,

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, London N. Breed, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, proclaim the existence, effective immediately on December 17, 2021 and for limited duration specified below, of an emergency within the City threatening the lives, property or welfare of the City and County and its citizens.

It is further ordered that:

- (1) All City officers and employees take all steps requested by the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management to address the emergency conditions of the overdose and overdose death crisis in the Tenderloin. For purposes of this Proclamation, the “Tenderloin” means the San Francisco Police Department’s Tenderloin District and the additional area within a one-block perimeter of that District.
- (2) All City officers and employees take all steps requested by the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management to qualify the City for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and for other state and federal relief as may be available to reimburse the City for the expenses it incurs in addressing this emergency.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other restriction in local law except Charter Section 9.118, City departments entering agreements related to the City’s response to the emergency, including contracts for the procurement of commodities or services, contracts for public works, and grant agreements, shall comply with the procedural requirements of Section 21.15 of the Administrative Code (for agreements that are otherwise subject to



Chapter 21 or Chapter 21G) or Section 6.60 of the Administrative Code (for agreements that are otherwise subject to Chapter 6). Civil Service Commission approval of such agreements is waived. Within 30 days of execution of the agreement departments must report any agreement that would have required approval by the Civil Service Commission to the Civil Service Commission.

(4) Temporary facilities implemented for purposes of offering services as part of the emergency response, such as public health, behavioral health, social, or housing services, as recommended by the Director of the Department of Emergency Management or the Director's designee and authorized by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee, shall be allowed in the Tenderloin, including on any City sidewalks or parks; any provision in City law that limits or restricts the City's deployment of such facilities is waived, and any applicable local requirements for public notice, the filing or approval of a permit application, or payment of fees related to that response are waived.

I further proclaim and order that:

By the terms of this emergency declaration the City's government is organized under the provisions of the Incident Command System (ICS), which system forms an essential part of the City's Emergency Response Plan and is located in the Emergency Operations Center of the City and County of San Francisco. All City departments are ordered to cooperate strictly with the requests for material and personnel resources that may emanate from the ICS staff of the City. Under Charter Section 3.100(14), the Mayor may direct department personnel and resources, including reallocating and expending available funds within a department's budget or among and between departments, and expending available unappropriated funds, as necessary to meet the emergency. At least once every 30 days during this emergency, and again within 30 days after the termination of the emergency, the Controller shall report to the Board of Supervisors any transfer of appropriated or unappropriated funds adopted pursuant to this proclamation;



And I further proclaim and order that:

This declaration of a local emergency shall continue to exist for no longer than 90 days from the effective date of this Proclamation and may be terminated earlier by the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors.

DATED: December 17, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "London Breed".

London N. Breed
Mayor of San Francisco