MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 29, 2014
TO: Edward Chow, MD, Health Commission President, and Members of the Health Commission
THROUGH: Barbara A. Garcia, MPA, Director of Health
FROM: Colleen Chawla, Deputy Director of Health/Director of Policy & Planning
RE: Proposed Amendments to the Health Care Security Ordinance - Update

At your last meeting, you received a presentation on amendments to the Health Care Security Ordinance proposed by Supervisor Campos. At that time, the Department of Public Health (DPH) expressed support for the intent of the legislation but also had concerns that the health care programming language would not provide DPH with the flexibility it would need to develop a program to address health care affordability. Since that meeting, the DPH has worked with Supervisor Campos’s office on additional amendments that accommodate the concerns DPH discussed at the Health Commission meeting.

Specifically, the recent amendments remove language establishing the proposed Covered San Francisco program and instead include the following intent language:

“In accordance with the guiding principles and key findings of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council Final Report, the Department of Public Health shall develop a plan to ensure that Employer Health Care Expenditures made to the City pursuant to Section 14.3 can be used to maximize enrollment in health insurance through Covered California. This plan shall be presented to the Health Commission no later than August 1, 2015, so that it may be considered and approved by the Health Commission and by the Board of Supervisors in time for full implementation beginning in the 2016 Covered California plan year. Unless and until the plan is approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Health shall continue to administer the Health Access Program, which includes Healthy San Francisco and Medical Reimbursement Accounts, in a manner that is consistent with the guiding principles and key findings of the 2013 Universal Healthcare Council Final Report.”

A copy of the amended legislation is attached for your reference.