

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 12-93

RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FISCAL YEAR 1993-94

WHEREAS, the City's efforts to balance its budget should equitably distribute the pain among all citizens and attempt to maintain an essential safety net for the most vulnerable segments of our population; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission has received the FY 1993-94 proposed reductions and reluctantly forwards this budget to the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission has taken its direction with the professional guidance of the Director of Public Health, Raymond J. Baxter, Ph.D., his Executive Staff, and the public testimony of the Health Commission hearings; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission understands not only that the cuts within this fifty-six million dollar cumulative reduction will have monumental repercussions in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and primary care but also that significant reductions in services at San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital will create severe hardships and extensive loss in State and Federal revenues, making the cuts not cost effective; and,

WHEREAS, beyond the service impacts, the Commission expresses its concern that the managerial and technical infrastructure of the Department is being undermined by these cuts, and the Department's ability to continue to serve its clients in a cost-effective manner in the changing health care environment is potentially being compromised; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to avoid the proposed cuts by increasing city revenues, negotiating a wage freeze with City employees, and exploring future methods of economically stabilizing the Department of Public Health through establishing the Department as an Enterprise; and the Health Commission offers its support in advocating for such measures among the business community, City employees, health providers, consumers of the Department's services, and the general public; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to rely on the expertise of the Department to preserve and carry out its mission; and be it

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RESOLUTION NO. 12-93 (Cont'd.)

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission, while affirming its confidence that the Department has developed alternatives that minimize the service impact of such a large General Fund cut, finds both the May 10th alternative and all previous alternatives, except Scenarios #1 and #4, developed by the Department, would dangerously imperil the health of large numbers of San Franciscans; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports the prioritization of the proposed budget reductions offered by the Director of Public Health, should the General Fund support for the Department's services be reduced.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Health Commission at its meeting of Tuesday, May 11, 1993.



Sandy Ouye Mori
Sandy Ouye Mori
Executive Secretary to
the Health Commission