

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION 13-09**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF FOOD SECURITY FOR RESIDENTS OF  
SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY HOTELS**

WHEREAS, San Francisco has over 500 residential hotels, and over 18,000 low-income tenants which live in Single Room Occupancy Hotels (SROs);

WHEREAS, SROs are the largest supply of low-cost housing in the city and are occupied by the lowest income and most vulnerable citizens of San Francisco;

WHEREAS, Many SROs are in need of repairs and renovations, are overcrowded, and lack access to kitchens;

WHEREAS, Many residents of SROs are food insecure due to a lack of adequate resources to purchase healthy food, lack of access to retail establishments selling affordable and healthy food, and a lack of facilities to prepare and store food;

WHEREAS, There are complicating factors to expanding food preparation and storage options in SROs, including fire safety risks, the need for building upgrades, pest infestations, additional public health nuisances, lack of supportive services and the need for more proactive routine inspections of all SROs in San Francisco;

WHEREAS, Research has linked food insecurity and substandard housing to poor health outcomes, including stress and depression, incomplete viral suppression among HIV positive urban poor, higher rates of hospitalization and acute care utilization, asthma, infectious disease and injuries; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has an integral role ensuring housing safety and habitability in SROs through its responsibility for health and safety inspections for code compliance, through its role responding to tenant complaints, and as a provider of supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals through its Direct Access to Housing program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Health Commission supports a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that evaluates food security and other conditions to improve the health of residents in SROs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as stakeholder input is a significant component of a HIA, the Health Commission supports the development of a private-public multi-agency working group to identify the key issues associated with food security and the wide variety of related health issues in SROs.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted this resolution at its meeting of September 3, 2013.

  
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Mark Morewitz  
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission