



HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 20-5

**HONORING THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR ITS ONGOING
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS**

WHEREAS, Dr. Grant Colfax, San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) Director of Health, initiated DPH planning efforts to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in late January 2020, and began reporting to the Health Commission on COVID-19 related information and activities at that time; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, Mayor London Breed, with input from Dr. Colfax and Dr. Thomas Aragon, San Francisco Health Officer and Director of the DPH Population Health Division, was one of the first Mayors in the United States to declare a local emergency due to the threat posed by COVID-19. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors concurred in the Mayor's proclamation Emergency on March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Dr. Tomas Aragon declared a local emergency under the California Health and Safety Code, and the Board of Supervisors concurred; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, the City issued public health guidance to encourage social distancing to disrupt the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Dr. Aragon ordered City facilities to cancel non-essential group events of more than 50 people and prohibited visitors to Laguna Honda Hospital; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Dr. Aragon issued an order prohibiting public gatherings of 1,000 people or more; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Dr. Aragon issued an order prohibiting gatherings of 100 people or more; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Colfax and Dr. Aragon worked closely with Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Marin County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County to align the Bay Area in a uniquely coordinated COVID-19 prevention and response effort; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Dr. Aragon issued an order, coordinated with 5 other Bay Area Counties, for residents to stay safe at home through April 7, 2020, and on March 31, 2020, Dr. Aragon extended the stay at home order until May 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom, following the leadership of San Francisco and 5 other Bay Area counties, issued an Executive Order to require Californians stay at home; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Aragon has continued to put forth a series of other detailed and innovative Health Officer Orders that outline necessary preventative measures to protect the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Colfax, and other DPH Executive Leadership, has continued working closely with local and state leaders in the complex procurement of necessary space to expand San Francisco's hospital and medical shelter capacity, and purchasing personal protective equipment, and testing supplies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Colfax, Dr. Aragon, and other DPH leadership has coordinated with other local hospitals, academic institutions, private practices, non-profit organizations, and businesses to develop a San Francisco community of care, including sharing of medical staff and precious resources to increase medical surge capacity and overall resources devoted to the City's COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to provide transparency and keep the public informed, Dr. Colfax, Dr. Aragon, and Dr. Susan Philip, Deputy Health Officer and Director of DPH Disease Prevention and Control, continue to participate in ongoing City and County of San Francisco press conferences to communicate important COVID-19 case data, testing data, and give updates on the public health response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission commends Dr. Grant Colfax, for his steadfast and compassionate leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. He continues to lead the DPH through the ultimate challenge of temporarily repurposing a \$2 billion, 8,000 employee, City Department to respond to an ongoing health crisis, while ensuring that the essential regular health delivery and public health functions of the DPH continue to be provided.; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission extends its gratitude to the Dr. Tomas Aragon for his courageous leadership as Health Officer. During this crisis, his Health Officer Orders have been progressive and effective in providing clear guidance necessary for San Franciscans to protect their health and save lives; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission acknowledges the enormous contributions and outstanding leadership of the DPH staff who rotate responsibilities as DPH Incident Commanders, responsible for multi-faceted and complex operations of the DPH portion of the Emergency Operation Center. These individuals include Dr. Naveena Bobba, DPH Deputy Director of Health, Dr. Susan Philip, Deputy Health Officer and Director of DPH Disease Prevention and Control, Dr. Ayanna Bennett, Director of DPH Office of Health Equity, and Tosan Boyo, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Chief Operating Officer; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission recognizes the effective leadership of Dr. Susan Ehrlich, Chief Executive Officer of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG), and Maggie Ryskowski, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, for their incredible leadership and hard work to ensure each hospital continues to implement appropriate COVID-19 preparation and response; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission expresses its deep gratitude for every Department of Public Health employee for the vital contributions made each day to benefit the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans. Special thanks and admiration from the Commission go to those working directly with members of the public in COVID19 testing centers, labs, and other medical settings, shelters, hotels, and on the street, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission thanks the staff of all DPH partners, especially other City and County of San Francisco Departments, local hospitals, with special appreciation to UCSF which partners with the DPH to operate ZSFG, and community based organizations, for the ongoing work implemented each day to impact and save lives of San Franciscans; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission encourages the Department and its partners and City departments to continue the extraordinary collaboration to successfully combat the pandemic for the health and safety of our communities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission thanks all members of the public for their immediate compliance and cooperation with initiatives that are protecting the most vulnerable individuals in San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Health Commission expresses deep appreciation to Mayor London Breed for her bravery and skill in leading the City during this crisis, and to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, for their support on public health related issues and leadership during this time.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of April 21, 2020 adopted the foregoing resolution.



Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary