

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution 21-03**

ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES OF THE LOCAL AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges the disproportionate health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community such as shorter life expectancy and higher rates of diabetes; heart disease; AIDS; premature death; domestic violence and other violence exposure; stress-related illness, such as high blood pressure, depression, homelessness and suicide; as well as disproportionate morbidity and mortality due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that American Indians/Alaska Natives may face one or more systemic barriers, including unstable or a lack of housing, food insecurity, and limited access to culturally sensitive healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges that existing American Indian/Alaska Native health data contains significant data gaps, characterized by both a lack of data collection on American Indian and Alaska Native race and ethnicity categories, and underreporting on American Indian/Alaska Native health indicators, rendering data insufficient to fully identify the disproportionate health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS, The Health Commission acknowledges the resources directed to American Indian/Alaska Native organizations have not been proportional to the severity of the health disparities faced by the American Indian/Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Human Rights Commission published a report in 2007, "Discrimination by Omission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco," detailing the ways in which American Indian communities experience systemic erasure and exclusion in San Francisco, and identifying numerous recommendations for improved outcomes, and process which was guided by members of the local American Indian/Alaska Native community and tribes.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, The Health Commission recommends the San Francisco Department of Public Health establish meaningful and ongoing partnerships with local American Indian/Alaska Native organizations, community leaders, and community/tribal members, to identify and understand their public health needs and develop a set of public health priorities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission recommends the San Francisco Department of Public Health include accurate and disaggregated American Indian/Alaska Native health data and health impacts in public reporting where possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission directs the San Francisco Department of Public Health to add a footnote to any presentation or report that includes race and/or ethnicity data presented to the Health Commission, explaining a lack of data for a specific community to ensure that no community experiences being invisible due to its size or small data set; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission directs the San Francisco Department of Public Health to work with local American Indian/Alaska Native organizations and community/tribal members to identify recommendations to address these health disparities, including presenting an update to the Health Commission within six months on this process, and a summary report within one year.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its January 4, 2022 meeting adopt the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary