Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 1554, authored by Assembly Member Irwin, and Senate Bill 819, authored by Senator Huff, which will ban the sale and distribution of powdered alcohol in California.

WHEREAS, According to calculations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) averages of 2006-2010, 503 underage youth die annually from alcohol related causes in California and excessive alcohol consumption by California youth leads to 30,236 years of potential life lost each year; and

WHEREAS, Youth violence related to drinking costs California $3,500,000,000 annually and 216 deaths, and youth traffic crashes related to drinking costs $1,200,000,000 annually and 148 deaths; and

WHEREAS, The total cost to California of underage drinking is estimated at over $6,700,000,000 annually, in 2012, 5,192 youth aged 12 to 20 years were admitted for alcohol treatment in California; and

WHEREAS, Conservative estimates conclude that the City and County of San Francisco bears the cost of $17,100,000 annually, for alcohol-related emergency medical transport, medical care of people with alcohol-related illnesses; alcohol abuse treatment and prevention; as well as disability and death due to alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, In San Francisco, alcohol use ranks among the leading causes of premature mortality; the San Francisco Department of Public Health considers alcohol a major public health problem; and
WHEREAS, Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely
to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of
alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol also has a very high potential to attract youth with its
convenience, fruity flavors and portability; and

WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol could be readily used to spike other alcoholic
beverages making them more dangerous for youth consumption, or added to sodas, energy
drinks, juices or punch very easily, much more easily than adding liquid alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Powdered alcohol is easy to conceal, and could be snuck into schools,
libraries, social functions, coliseums, stadiums, and concert venues without notice; and

WHEREAS, Adolescence is a time of risk-taking and experimentation, and this type of
product will encourage heavier drinking, excessive drinking and binge drinking; and

WHEREAS, The ban of this product will have no fiscal cost to the State or the City and
County of San Francisco, except in enormous cost savings from reduced death, injury and
alcohol-related disease; and

WHEREAS, Over twenty-five states have taken action to ban powdered alcohol in the
last two years, and another ten have had legislation proposed in the 2015 session, and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Prevention Coalition, and community leaders support a
statewide ban on powdered alcohol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
hereby urges the California State Legislature and Governor to pass AB 1554 and SB 819;
and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of California, the
California State Assembly, and the California State Senate.
Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 1554, authored by Assembly Member Irwin, and Senate Bill 819, authored by Senator Huff, which will ban the sale and distribution of powdered alcohol in California.

January 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/26/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board