

1 [Supporting the Occupy Wall Street Protest Movement and the People’s Right to Peaceful  
2 Assembly]

3 **Resolution supporting the occupy Wall Street Protest Movement and urging Mayor Lee**  
4 **to uphold people’s right to peaceful assembly and collaborate with OccupySF to**  
5 **ensure safety of the protestors, their supporters, and the greater public in the City and**  
6 **County of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, "Occupy Wall Street" was formed by a broad spectrum of people coming  
9 together to protest the corporate-serving economic and political system controlled by the 1  
10 percent, profiting at the expense of 99 percent of the people; and

11 WHEREAS, Three years after the current financial crisis caused by Wall Street  
12 speculators and profiteers, the unemployment rate in the United States is still at the highest  
13 level since the Great Depression with the unemployment rate in San Francisco currently at 8.3  
14 percent; and,

15 WHEREAS, The United States’ major banking institutions, which have been bailed-out  
16 by the government and United States taxpayers, have done little to prevent massive  
17 foreclosure of residential properties or support the revitalization of local economies by  
18 sustaining small businesses; and,

19 WHEREAS, Since 2008, there have been 1.2 million foreclosures in California, with  
20 12,410 homes in San Francisco alone; and,

21 WHEREAS, The "Occupy Wall Street" protest movement has struck a chord with the  
22 people of the United States and around the world, inspiring over 900 similar protests and  
23 solidarity actions across the country, where tens of thousands of people have come out to  
24 express their deep indignation against Wall Street greed and systemic socio-economic  
25 injustices; and,

1           WHEREAS, The "Occupy" demonstrations are a rapidly growing movement of people  
2 from all walks of life with the goal of occupying public space in order to create a shared  
3 dialogue and assert demands for economic justice; and,

4           WHEREAS, The "Occupy" demonstrations have been supported by the California  
5 Nurses Association/ National Nurses Association, American Federation of Labor -Congress of  
6 Industrial Organizations, Change to Win, International Longshore and Warehouse Union-  
7 International, Teamsters Joint Council 7, Services Employees International Union, Laborers  
8 International Union of North America, and many others; and,

9           WHEREAS, The OccupySF demonstrations began in September with small gatherings  
10 of people and have since grown and gained supported from thousands of individuals,  
11 community and faith-based organizations, and unions; and,

12           WHEREAS, On October 12, a 500-person march and civil disobedience organized by  
13 local community groups received national media attention, exposing the struggles of San  
14 Francisco residents against foreclosure, corporate control, and spiraling unemployment; and,

15           WHEREAS, The October march and protest action culminated in civil disobedience  
16 and, despite the arrest of 11 people, lacked any antagonistic conflict between the police and  
17 protestors; and,

18           WHEREAS, Similar to demonstrations in hundreds of cities across the United States,  
19 OccupySF demonstrators are asserting their rights to free speech and peaceful assembly 24  
20 hours a day, seven days a week, in order to create public dialogue around corporate control of  
21 the political process and public space; and,

22           WHEREAS, Numerous and various groups continue to join the protesters at  
23 OccupySF, including an interfaith clergy contingent and the California Nurses Association,  
24 which has set up a First Aid tent to support the protestors and help ensure public safety; and,  
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1           WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco has a right and duty to ensure the safety and  
2 security of the general public including the protestors and their supporters; and,

3           WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the protest, City actions have resulted in the  
4 confiscation of food, tents, sleeping bags, and other belongings from the OccupySF  
5 demonstrators as well as causing preventable injuries and arrests; and,

6           WHEREAS, The City has a lengthy and proud history of political protest and has  
7 upheld the rights of people to free speech, freedom of assembly, and peaceful protest; and,

8           WHEREAS, With clear leadership from the Mayor, City departments can set a tone of  
9 cooperation and collaboration with OccupySF protestors and supporters, help mitigate harm,  
10 and address any public safety, health and sanitation concerns, all while avoiding unnecessary  
11 conflict; now, therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the Occupy Wall Street protest  
13 movement and the rights of all who protest to assemble peacefully and enjoy free speech in  
14 the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes that Free Speech  
16 and Freedom of Assembly should not be limited to daytime nor short-term activities and we  
17 deem the need of protesters to have tents, tarps, First Aid supplies, environmentally clean and  
18 fire-safe energy sources, and the ability to store, prepare, and serve hot food reasonable; and,  
19 be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor, the Police  
21 Department, and other City agencies to uphold the rights of protestors to political speech and  
22 public assembly, and to recognize that the full exercise of such rights requires that  
23 participants are able to attend to the needs of everyday life, and have a space free from  
24 harassment; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Mayor Ed Lee to direct  
2 the Recreation and Park Department, the Department of Public Works, the Police  
3 Department, and other City agencies, as relevant, to be flexible and to collaborate with  
4 protestors for the safe sharing of public spaces, in which demonstrators can exercise their  
5 political rights and the City can address legitimate safety concerns while avoiding  
6 unnecessary antagonism; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Mayor Ed Lee, in order  
8 to prevent further harm and conflict to any members of the public, including protestors of  
9 OccupySF, to direct the Police Department to ensure that there will be no use of force to  
10 dislodge the OccupySF demonstrators and confiscate their belongings.

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