

1 [Urging Plan Approval - Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation -
2 Folsom Street Fair with Gated Entry]

3 **Resolution urging the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation**
4 **to approve a proposed plan to allow gated admission for the Folsom Street Fair.**

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6 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Fair has been a much-loved community event for the
7 LGBTQ and Leather community for the last 35 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Fair, takes place in the South of Market (SOMA) area at the
9 center of the Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District along five-blocks of Folsom Street between
10 the Central Freeway and 8th Street and along 12th, 11th, 10th, and 9th Streets as well as
11 Dore Street between Howard Street and Harrison Street and including half of Juniper Street
12 south of Folsom; and

13 Whereas, Folsom Street Fair is one of California’s largest single-day outdoor spectator
14 events and is also the world’s largest Leather and BDSM event with up to 250,000 attending
15 in recent years; and

16 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Fair started in 1984 at the height of the AIDS epidemic as
17 an anti-displacement measure demonstrating the strength, perseverance, and importance of
18 the LGBTQ and Leather communities to Western SOMA; and

19 WHEREAS, Anti-LGBT sentiment is on the rise due to an openly hostile Federal
20 Administration and gated entry would allow for security screenings to ensure that participants
21 and residents remain safe; and

22 WHEREAS, The Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation
23 (ISCOTT) requires a Resolution from the Board of Supervisors in order for Folsom Street Fair
24 to place barriers on the sidewalk to funnel pedestrian traffic through security check-points; and

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1 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Fair is a free event with suggested donations that are
2 collected at the entry points to the fair; and

3 WHEREAS, No one is turned away from Folsom Street Fair for lack of funds; and

4 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Fair is produced by Folsom Street Events, a non-profit
5 organization that re-invests all event proceeds from donations and beverage sales to the
6 production of future events and donates the remaining proceeds to charitable causes; and

7 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Events has raised over \$7 million for charity through the
8 proceeds of gate donations and beverage sales from Up Your Alley and Folsom Street Fair
9 since 1984; and

10 WHEREAS, Non-profit organizations, small businesses, and street fairs are struggling
11 to operate in the City and County of San Francisco due to the high costs of labor, permitting,
12 and services; and

13 WHEREAS, Folsom Street Events has worked with the Police Department (SFPD) and
14 ISCOTT staff on all of their plans for the event; and

15 WHEREAS, Approval of this access plan will be a requirement of their ISCOTT permit;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
18 urges ISCOTT to approve of the plan for gated entry for the Folsom Street Fair; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of
20 Supervisors instructs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this Resolution to the
21 Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

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