

1 [Urging the Mayor to Return Transit Funding to the Municipal Transportation Agency]

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3 **Resolution urging Mayor Gavin Newsom to return to the Municipal Transportation**
4 **Agency positions and funds that are not directly related to the operations of the**
5 **Agency.**

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7 WHEREAS, The quality and performance of San Francisco’s public transit system
8 consistently ranks among citizens’ greatest concerns; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Municipal Transportation Agency faces annual structural budget
10 deficits greater than \$100 million; and,

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco voters twice affirmed the importance of an independent
12 agency in Propositions E of November 1999 and A of November 2007; and,

13 WHEREAS, As part of Proposition E of 1999, voters wrote into the city’s charter our
14 Transit First Policy which outlines the city’s official commitment to offering safe, on-time public
15 transportation for all city residents; and,

16 WHEREAS, The Transit First Policy further states “All officers, boards, commissions,
17 and departments shall implement these principles in conducting the City and County’s affairs”;
18 and,

19 WHEREAS, Proposition E established the Municipal Transportation Fund as the
20 operating account for the MTA and specified the appropriate uses of the fund as follows:
21 “Monies therein shall be appropriated, expended, or used by the Agency solely and
22 exclusively for the operation including, without limitation, capital improvements, management,
23 supervision, maintenance, extension, and day-to-day operation of 1) the Agency; 2) the
24 Municipal Railway; 3) upon its incorporation into the Agency, the Department of Parking and
25 Traffic; and 4) any other division of the Agency subsequently created and performing

1 transportation-related functions. Monies in the Fund may not be used for any other purposes
2 than those identified in this Section. (Charter Section 8A.105 (a))"; and,

3 WHEREAS, The Controller recently made public information regarding several senior
4 staff and support staff hired into the Mayor's Office as MTA employees and funded through
5 the Agency, identifying the cost of these positions in Fiscal Year 2007-08 as \$749,232; and,

6 WHEREAS, This practice of appropriating money and positions from the MTA to fund
7 special assistants and support staff at the Mayor's Office violates the budget provisions set
8 forth in the above referenced Charter section; and,

9 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Proposition E, the MTA Board of Directors is charged with
10 giving policy guidance to the Agency and overseeing the Agency's financial assets; now,
11 therefore, be it,

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to return positions and
13 funds not directly related to the operations of the MTA; and be it,

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the Mayor reduce the use of transit
15 related funds or positions in preparing the forthcoming FY 2008-09 Mayor's Office budget;
16 and, be it,

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to collaborate
18 with the MTA Board of Directors to develop and adopt criteria requiring all MTA work orders
19 be accompanied by written specific explanations of the services provided to the MTA through
20 such work orders.

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