

1 [Ethics Investigation Disclosure.]

2

3 **Resolution urging the Ethics Commission to unseal and redact records related to the**
4 **settlement of the case involving late reporting of contributions against Proposition D of**
5 **2002.**

6

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco relies on the Ethics Commission to
8 promulgate and enforce laws regarding campaign finance in order to preserve the confidence
9 of the public in the clean, open conduct of election campaigns and government; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Ethics Commission recently settled a case for \$100,000 where the
11 Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance was violated with respect to the timely disclosure of
12 \$800,000 in contributions to "San Franciscans Against the Blank Check—No on Proposition
13 D" on the November 2002 ballot; and,

14 WHEREAS, The Rules Committee recently heard testimony indicating that settlement
15 recommendations of Ethics Staff were less stringent than those ultimately imposed by the
16 Commissioners; and,

17 WHEREAS, The investigative files of the Ethics Commission are generally sealed
18 unless the Commission decides otherwise; and,

19 WHEREAS, The common perception is that when the Ethics Commission enforces the
20 Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance, focuses on technical violations by less affluent
21 campaigns at the expense of substantive violations by campaigns that are funded to the
22 extent that they can afford the services of competent legal counsel; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Government Audit and Oversight Committee is preparing for a
24 hearing on the operations of the Ethics Commission and whether it is sufficiently,
25 professionally and adequately staffed; and,

1 WHEREAS, The mechanics of Ethics' enforcement operation will be of paramount at
2 importance this hearing; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that these documents will serve as a
4 basis for assessing the professionalism of the current enforcement staff and for future
5 improvements in the enforcement operation; and be it,

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges The Ethics Commission
7 to unseal, redact and make available all files related to the enforcement process that led to
8 the stipulated settlement of the case of the \$800,000 late reported contribution to "San
9 Franciscans Against the Blank Check—No on Proposition D."

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25