

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 the safety of the protestors, their supporters, and the greater public in the City**
6 **and 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Numerous and various groups continue to join the protestors at OccupySF, including an interfaith clergy contingent and the California Nurses Association, which has set up a First Aid tent to support the protestors and help ensure public safety; and

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, San Francisco is one of the few places where the city has provided
9 portable toilets in order to accommodate the Occupy movement; and

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

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

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes that Free Speech
18 and Freedom of Assembly should not be limited to daytime nor short-term activities and we
19 deem the need of protesters to have adequate shelter, First Aid supplies, environmentally
20 clean and fire-safe energy sources, and access to food reasonable; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor, the Police
22 Department, and other City agencies to uphold the rights of protestors to political speech and
23 public assembly, and to recognize that the full exercise of such rights requires that
24 participants are able to attend to the needs of everyday life, and have a space free from
25 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
9 belonging to OccupySF, to direct the Police Department to ensure that there will be no use of
10 force to dislodge the OccupySF demonstrators and confiscate their belongings.

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