

1 [Official City policy that no new set-asides be added to the City Charter without a funding  
2 source.]

3 **Resolution declaring it to be official City policy that no new set-asides or other**  
4 **mandatory appropriations be added to the City Charter unless the measure also**  
5 **identifies or provides a specific, adequate new source of funds.**

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7 WHEREAS, The City's total fiscal year 2007-08 revenue is \$6.07 billion, but only \$2.83  
8 billion of that revenue is General Fund money; and,

9 WHEREAS, Various voter-approved provisions of the Charter require the City to set  
10 aside over \$742.62 million of the tax levy for particular purposes or otherwise mandate  
11 continuing annual appropriations for specific programs; and,

12 WHEREAS, These provisions, along with other restrictions, set aside \$1.72 billion, or  
13 61 percent of the General Fund portion of the budget, for specific purposes; and

14 WHEREAS, Only the remaining \$1.11 billion of the General Fund portion of the budget  
15 is unrestricted, meaning that the City may spend it for any lawful governmental purpose; and,

16 WHEREAS, Only the voters at another election have the authority to change these  
17 budget set-aside provisions; and

18 WHEREAS, As a result of these budget set-asides, the Mayor and the Board of  
19 Supervisors only have discretion over approximately 39 percent of the General Fund portion  
20 of the annual budget and 18 percent of the overall City budget; and,

21 WHEREAS, The impact of these set-asides has limited the ability of the Mayor and  
22 Board of Supervisors to effectively respond to recurring budget deficits, and has led to  
23 reductions in important public services due to the declining portion of the budget available for  
24 discretionary spending; and

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1           WHEREAS, Unfunded spending mandates have serious implications for the long-term  
2 financial condition of local government, and fiscal responsibility requires limiting these  
3 unfunded mandates, and

4           WHEREAS, While these set-asides often individually promote laudable purposes,  
5 collectively they impair the capacity of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to carry out  
6 one of their most important functions: allocating the City's limited resources so as best to  
7 serve the public interest; now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That it is hereby the official policy of the City and County of San  
9 Francisco that no new set-asides or other mandatory appropriations be added to the City  
10 Charter unless the measure also identifies or provides a specific, adequate new source of  
11 funds.

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