

1 [Declaration of Policy.]

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3 **Motion submitting a policy declaration to the qualified electors of the City and County**
4 **of San Francisco at the November 4, 2008 election concerning the voter's non-binding**
5 **recommendation that Article 10A (the Emergency Response Fee) be repealed, that**
6 **Article 10B (Access Line Tax) be added to the Business and Tax Regulations Code and**
7 **that the proposed Access Line Tax revenues be expended to support public safety and**
8 **health by funding San Francisco's 911 Emergency Communications Center.**

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10 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby submits the following declaration of
11 policy to the voters of the City and County of San Francisco, at an election to be held on
12 November 4, 2008.

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14 Declaration of Policy of the City and County of San Francisco Article 10A (the Emergency
15 Response Fee) be repealed, that Article 10B (Access Line Tax) be added to the Business and
16 Tax Regulations Code and that the proposed Access Line Tax revenues be expended to
17 support public safety and health by funding San Francisco's 911 Emergency Communications
18 Center.

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The People of the City and County of San Francisco declare that:

20 WHEREAS, The City's basic 911 system proved deficient during one of the most tragic
21 emergencies in the City's history, when a disgruntled client entered a law firm in the
22 101 California Street Office building and opened fire with a gun, killing eight people and
23 wounding six before killing himself. Due to computer system failures and human error,
24 42 minutes elapsed between the first call to 911 and the time that emergency response
25 personnel reached the shooting victims; and,

1 WHEREAS, In response to this tragedy the City began a major upgrade of its 911
2 system. In order to finance the cost of the project, voters approved participation bonds to
3 build a consolidated, seismically safe, state of the industry, 911 Communications System
4 facility. The consolidated call center can automatically direct calls to the appropriate response
5 agency, and communicate data by way of computer terminals installed in emergency vehicles.
6 The City also implemented a plan to keep the system up-to-date; and,

7 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need for a secure source of funding to defray the costs of
8 operating and maintaining the new facility and upgraded equipment, the City adopted an
9 Emergency Response Fee (“ERF”) on telephone access lines. Without that fee, the City would
10 have been unable to maintain or operate its enhanced 911 system; and,

11 WHEREAS, Since that time the City has dedicated that stream of funding to support
12 the development and maintenance of a state-of-the-art 911 call center; hiring skilled
13 emergency response personnel, who provide effective and humane services in stressful
14 circumstances; and improving response times in emergency situations; and,

15 WHEREAS, The City’s 911 system is the backbone of San Francisco’s public safety
16 infrastructure. It employs a technologically sophisticated communication system that collects
17 and processes location data in an emergency, dispatching police, fire and medical personnel
18 to respond to calls for help from residents across the City; and,

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Emergency Communications Center annually receives
20 more than 950,000 calls and dispatches life-saving first responders as required; and,

21 WHEREAS, A well-trained and fully-staffed emergency communications center will be
22 an essential component of the City’s disaster response plan by directing public safety
23 resources to where they are most needed; and,

24 WHEREAS, To ease administration and provide budgetary flexibility, the City and
25 County intends to replace the ERF with a general tax, the access line tax (“ALT”) that would

1 supply general fund revenues that could continue to support vital emergency services, as well
2 as other essential City services; now therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, It is the intent of the people of the City and County of San Francisco that
4 revenues from future Access Line Taxes continue to support public safety and health by
5 funding San Francisco's 911 Emergency Communications Center and staff.

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