

1 [Urging the Organizers of the Bay to Breakers to Collaborate on a Comprehensive Plan that
2 Protects the Neighborhoods While Preserving the Unique Spirit of the Race.]

3 **Resolution urging the sponsors of the Bay to Breakers race to work with city agencies,**
4 **neighborhood groups, and race advocates to develop a comprehensive plan that**
5 **protects the host neighborhoods while preserving the unique spirit of the race.**
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7 WHEREAS, The Bay to Breakers footrace was started in 1912 to rally San
8 Franciscans together and raise their spirits as they struggled to recover from the 1906
9 earthquake; and

10 WHEREAS, Bay to Breakers has grown to become an iconic San Francisco event that
11 exemplifies the City’s joie de vivre through traditions such as creative costumes, local bands
12 playing for the participants, and house parties along the route; and,

13 WHEREAS, Small businesses and hotels across the City report a measurable increase
14 in business throughout the Bay to Breakers weekend; and,

15 WHEREAS, In recent years, a growing number of non-registered participants have
16 joined the event after the runners have passed; and,

17 WHEREAS, Many of these non-registered participants dress in costumes and devote
18 months to building elaborate rolling floats, which have transformed the tail end of the event
19 into an informal parade celebration that has not been part of the race’s plan for vital facilities
20 such as portable toilets and trash and recycling receptacles; and,

21 WHEREAS, For the last several years, the number of registered participants has
22 decreased while the number of non-registered participants has increased to the point where in
23 2008 there were almost as many non-registered participants as registered participants; and,
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1 WHEREAS, The cumulative impact of the large numbers of non-registered participants
2 and their floats on the neighborhoods has grown unacceptable, with 35 tons of trash being
3 discarded along the race route in 2008; and,

4 WHEREAS, In response to concerns from neighbors, participants, and the City, the
5 sponsors of Bay to Breakers announced a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and wheeled
6 objects in 2009; and,

7 WHEREAS, More than 15,000 citizens have joined online groups or signed petitions to
8 express their concerns that this new zero-tolerance policy threatens the unique spirit of Bay to
9 Breakers; and

10 WHEREAS, The citizens in these online groups have offered a number of suggestions
11 for improving the race and have expressed their willingness to register for the race and help
12 encourage others to respect the host neighborhoods if their concerns are addressed; and

13 WHEREAS, These online groups are uniquely positioned to help with outreach to the
14 non-registered participants using social-networking tools and their personal networks to
15 encourage people to register for the race and to bring an improved ethic of personal respect
16 the host neighborhoods; and,

17 WHEREAS, In these troubled times, the Bay to Breakers is too important to both San
18 Francisco’s local economy and collective spirits to allow for a small minority of bad actors to
19 compromise the integrity of this historic event; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
21 urges the sponsors of the Bay to Breakers to work with city agencies, neighborhood groups,
22 and race advocates to develop a comprehensive plan to preserve the fun and free spirit of the
23 race, complete with decorative floats, that provides adequate infrastructure—particularly
24 portable toilets and trash and recycling receptacles—to accommodate the anticipated
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1 attendance of both registered and non-registered participants and protects the host
2 neighborhoods; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors urges the race sponsors to
4 develop a new registration category for non-running participants who do not plan to race
5 competitively and who are not interested in a race bib, t-shirt, or timing chip; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors urges the race sponsors to
7 expand the “Footstock” after-party in Golden Gate Park to include an area designated as the
8 end point for all floats instead of diverting floats out of the park and into the Richmond
9 neighborhood; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors urges the race sponsors to
11 work with the newly-organized race advocates on a publicity campaign to urge all participants
12 to register for the race and to promote an improved ethic of personal responsibility that will
13 “leave no trace” and respect the host neighborhoods; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors urges the race sponsors to
15 work with the Municipal Transportation Agency to provide special Muni service using
16 Transverse Drive in Golden Gate Park to expedite participants’ departure from the park.

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