

1 [Resolution urging various City departments to investigate the costs, benefits, and technical
2 issues associated with installing City-owned broadband facilities in conjunction with the City's
3 planned rebuild of its sewer system.]

4 **Resolution urging the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services,**
5 **the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Public Works, and the Mayor's**
6 **Office of Public Finance to evaluate the costs, benefits, and technical issues**
7 **associated with installing broadband facilities when the City and County of San**
8 **Francisco conducts its planned rebuild of its sewer system, to enable the City and**
9 **County of San Francisco to increase the availability of bandwidth for**
10 **telecommunications, cable, and information services.**

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12 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco ("City") seeks to be a leader in
13 providing new and innovative telecommunications, cable, and information services
14 (collectively, "communications services"); and

15 WHEREAS, One limitation on the availability of communications services is the lack of
16 facilities able to transmit and receive information at high speeds; and

17 WHEREAS, In the past, multiple communications providers have sought to install
18 facilities in public rights-of-way, which resulted in repeated excavation and caused disruption
19 to the public and damage to City streets; and,

20 WHEREAS, The City seeks to minimize the amount of excavation in public rights-of-
21 way; and

22 WHEREAS, The City is planning to replace or upgrade its sewer system over the next
23 several years, and that project will require the City to excavate many of its streets; and

24 WHEREAS, The City could install communications facilities when it conducts its sewer
25 improvement project; and

1 WHEREAS, The installation of high-speed bandwidth communications facilities
2 throughout the City that can be used to provide wholesale broadband access would reduce
3 the need for excavation of public streets in the future; and

4 WHEREAS, Installing high-speed bandwidth facilities that could be leased to providers
5 of communications service could dramatically reduce the cost of market entry and thereby
6 increase competition; and

7 WHEREAS, The City could seek to recover the costs of building and maintaining high-
8 speed communications facilities through leasing the facilities to providers of communications
9 service; and

10 WHEREAS, The City already has some fiberoptic facilities installed underground but
11 such facilities are not installed throughout the City; and

12 WHEREAS, Other local governments have installed or are installing high-speed
13 communications facilities to provide communications services either directly or to lease such
14 facilities to communications service providers, and such local governments may be the source
15 of valuable information; and

16 WHEREAS, Ensuring adequate and affordable high-speed bandwidth facilities may
17 yield substantial public benefits, including encouraging business development, ensuring
18 ubiquitous and nondiscriminatory access to communications services, fostering robust civic
19 engagement and community participation, and increasing competition, which in turn may
20 encourage innovation and reduce prices for service; and

21 WHEREAS, In the course of recent cable franchise negotiations, successive local
22 telecommunications providers have refused to negotiate and/or fully implement standard
23 provisions won elsewhere for consumer privacy protections; discounted rates for low-income
24 residents, seniors, and non-profit organizations; increased bandwidth for public uses; and

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1 adequate financing and resource allocation for community-driven media production and
2 distribution; and

3 WHEREAS, The digital media environment presents valuable opportunities for
4 participation in civic life by sectors of the City marginalized in the largely consolidated “old
5 media” (radio, TV, daily newspapers); now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 urges the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services to analyze and report
8 to the Board on the following:

- 9 1) the number and type of communications providers that might potentially be
10 interested in leasing facilities from a City-owned high-speed communications system,
11 including Fiber to the Home/Business as well as other options, and the terms and conditions
12 under which leasing City-owned facilities would be feasible;
- 13 2) other local governments that have installed high-speed communications
14 systems, the types of services offered over such systems, the method of financing such
15 systems, and the number and type of subscribers to the services offered;
- 16 3) feasibility of the City providing services directly, as well as leasing facilities to
17 independent providers;
- 18 4) mechanisms to promote community participation in a City-owned high-speed
19 communications system;
- 20 5) the amount, location and type of high-speed communications facilities currently
21 owned by and installed in the City;
- 22 6) projected demand by individuals or businesses in the City for various types of
23 communications services during the next five years;

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1 7) a proposed plan for a City-owned high-speed communications system, including
2 recommendations for the types of facilities and the amount of bandwidth the City should
3 install, and the timing and placement of such facilities;

4 8) potential costs of installing and maintaining a City-owned high-speed
5 communications system, and potential financing mechanisms that do not rely on the general
6 fund;

7 9) alternative or additional methods of installing a City-owned high-speed
8 communications system, such as aerial placement of facilities, placement with other utility
9 facilities, and use of existing City-owned conduit; and

10 10) the public benefits that could be negotiated through lease agreements with
11 communications service providers, including financing for expanded community media
12 production and distribution; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the San Francisco
14 Public Utilities Commission to analyze and report on the location and timing of all sewers that
15 are expected to be replaced or upgraded, and the costs and benefits of coordinating such
16 work with installation of City-owned high-speed communications facilities; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Department of
18 Public Works to analyze and report to the Board on the costs and benefits of a City-owned
19 high-speed communications system with respect to its impact on construction and excavation
20 activities and the impact on the life of City streets; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Mayor's Office of
22 Public Finance to develop models for financing a City-owned high-speed communications
23 system.