

1 [Condemning the Naming of the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General
2 Hospital and Trauma Center]

3 **Resolution condemning the naming of the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma**
4 **Center after Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg and urging City departments to**
5 **establish clear standards with regards to naming rights for public institutions and**
6 **properties that reflect San Francisco’s values and a commitment to affirming and**
7 **upholding human rights, dignity, and social and racial justice.**

8
9 WHEREAS, The Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
10 and Trauma Center (the “Hospital”), formerly the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma
11 Center, is a public hospital operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and

12 WHEREAS, The Hospital is a safety net and community hospital, located in the
13 Mission, serving more than 100,000 vulnerable San Franciscans a year; and

14 WHEREAS, On March 3rd, 2015 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted
15 Resolution No. 57-15, authorizing the Department of Public Health to accept and expend a
16 \$57,375,000 gift from the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation and approved a Gift
17 Agreement with the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation by which Dr. Priscilla Chan
18 and Mark Zuckerberg granted \$75,000,000 to the Foundation, \$32,375,000 of which was
19 designated for the procurement of furniture, fixtures, equipment, information technology and
20 related services for San Francisco General Hospital’s new acute care and trauma building,
21 which was to be named the Priscilla and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
22 and Trauma Center; on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 150158,
23 which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

24
25

1 WHEREAS, The Gift is being distributed through the Silicon Valley Community
2 Foundation (“SVCF”), in installments, from an advised fund controlled by Mark Zuckerberg
3 and Dr. Priscilla Chan (collectively, the “Donors”); and

4 WHEREAS, in 2013 the Donors gave SVCF its largest gift to date, donating Facebook
5 stock worth nearly \$1 billion; and

6 WHEREAS, Donor advised funds, such as those used by SVCF and the Donors, have
7 been criticized for functioning as tax shelters to offset capital gains taxes from appreciating
8 stock values following events like initial public offerings (“IPO”); and

9 WHEREAS, The Donors’ initial contribution to the SVCF closely coincided with
10 Facebook’s IPO, likely saving the Donors tens of millions of dollars in capital gains taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco should discourage, not publicly
12 reward, tax evasion; and

13 WHEREAS, In November 2008 during the beginning of the Great Recession and
14 before Mark Zuckerberg purchased his home in San Francisco, the voters of San Francisco
15 authorized the sale of \$887,400,000 in a bond measure for the construction of a seismically
16 sound acute hospital; and

17 WHEREAS, Another bond measure was authorized in June of 2016 for an additional
18 \$222,000,000 for the retrofit of older facilities at the hospital; and

19 WHEREAS, Through the bond measures, San Francisco residents have therefore paid
20 approximately 90% of the \$1.244 billion construction and furnishing costs for the hospital; and

21 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health is responsible for safeguarding hospital
22 patients’ privacy and right to informed consent for both care and research; and

23 WHEREAS, Mark Zuckerberg is co-founder, chairman, chief executive officer, and
24 controlling shareholder of Facebook, the largest social media company in the world; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Facebook engaged in unauthorized research on 689,003 of its users
2 without their knowledge or consent to see if emotions could be transmitted like a contagious
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Facebook sought U.S. hospital data for further research as late as 2018
5 without ethical review or informed consent; and

6 WHEREAS, Facebook has been unable to protect its users from major privacy
7 breaches such as when Facebook allowed Cambridge Analytica to harvest data from the
8 personal profiles of some 87 million people worldwide without their consent, and when a 2018
9 attack on Facebook’s computer network exposed the personal information of nearly 50 million
10 users; and

11 WHEREAS, In July 2019, the Federal Trade Commission fined Facebook \$5 billion, by
12 far the largest penalty ever imposed on a company for violating consumers' privacy rights; and

13 WHEREAS, Facebook has allowed paid advertisements making false claims about the
14 risks of proven AIDS prevention medication while simultaneously preventing advertisements
15 promoting these public health tools; and

16 WHEREAS, In September 2019 Facebook removed a fact-checking disclaimer from a
17 medically inaccurate video from an anti-abortion organization, which remains up; and

18 WHEREAS, In October 2019 Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the
19 company would allow politicians and political parties to openly lie in their advertisements,
20 meaning that Facebook holds paid political advertisements to a lower standard than all others,
21 which prompted a public outcry from Facebook employees; and

22 WHEREAS, According to Facebook’s own internal audit, the Facebook platform in
23 Myanmar was used by bad actors to spread hate speech, incite violence, and coordinate
24 harm, and posts on Facebook were linked to offline violence; and

25

1 WHEREAS, In India, according to a study by Equality Labs, hate speech targeting
2 Indian caste, religious, gender, and queer minorities is rampant across Facebook; and

3 WHEREAS, Facebook’s refusal to address long-standing concerns about its policies
4 that have allowed hate, lies, racism, and disinformation on its platform has provoked more
5 than 1,000 companies to boycott advertising on Facebook in July 2020 as part of the Stop
6 Hate for Profit campaign; and

7 WHEREAS, According to a study by Pro Publica, despite pledges to root out
8 misinformation about coronavirus and COVID-19 millions of Facebook users are still being put
9 at risk of consuming harmful misinformation about coronavirus at a large scale, and Facebook
10 is rife with false or misleading claims about voting, particularly regarding voting by mail, which
11 is the safest way of casting a ballot during the coronavirus pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, According to an August 2020 study by Avaaz, during the last year, content
13 from the top 10 websites spreading health misinformation had almost four times as many
14 estimated views on Facebook as equivalent content from the websites of 10 leading health
15 institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease
16 Control and Prevention (CDC); and

17 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the International Center for Journalists and
18 Columbia University’s Tow Center Journalism of reporters covering the COVID-19 pandemic
19 reported that the Facebook platform was the largest impediment to delivering accurate stories
20 about the virus, and that efforts to reach out to the platform to stem the tide of lies were
21 usually unsuccessful; and

22 WHEREAS, In May 2020, Facebook refused to take down posts by President Trump
23 that incited hatred and violence against African Americans and facilitated voter suppression,
24 despite the fact that these posts violated the company’s own community standards policies,
25 which prompted Facebook employees to stage a virtual walkout; and

1 WHEREAS, In July 2020, Facebook released a civil rights audit it had commissioned,
2 which found that “the company make painful decisions over the last nine months with real
3 world consequences that are serious setbacks for civil rights” and that “Facebook has made
4 policy and enforcement choices that leave our election exposed to interference by the
5 President and others who seek to use misinformation to sow confusion and suppress voting”;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemns the naming of
8 the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center after Priscilla Chan and Mark
9 Zuckerberg; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges City
11 departments to establish clear standards with regards to naming rights for public institutions
12 and properties that reflect San Francisco’s values and a commitment to affirming and
13 upholding human rights, dignity, and social and racial justice.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25