

1 [Supporting the promotion and deployment of broadband Internet access in California and
2 San Francisco]

3 **Resolution joining with 31 California counties in supporting the work of the California**
4 **Emerging Technology Fund's *Get Connected!* public awareness program; embracing**
5 **the California Emerging Technology Fund's goal to achieve broadband Internet access**
6 **at home for 80% of all Californians by 2015; embracing a goal to achieve broadband**
7 **Internet access for 90% of San Franciscans by 2015, with a focus on connecting**
8 **seniors and low income households; requesting that the Department of Technology**
9 **report back on strategic actions planned that will remove barriers to and promote the**
10 **deployment and adoption of broadband.**

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of
13 life for residents in the City and County of San Francisco and throughout California; and

14 **WHEREAS**, High-speed Internet access—referred to generically as “broadband” and
15 including both wireline and wireless technologies—is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a
16 digital world and global economy; and

17 **WHEREAS**, California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the
18 evolution of broadband and other information technologies; however California's adoption and
19 use of broadband technology is only approximately equivalent to the national average; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In 2010, 30% of all Californians, 51% of low-income households, 50% of
21 Latino families, 45% of people with disabilities are not connected to the Internet with
22 broadband, leaving more than 10 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at
23 home; San Francisco faces digital inclusion challenges that mirror with only 42% of seniors
24 and 41% of low income households having broadband Internet access at home; and
25

1 **WHEREAS**, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to helping families
2 and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient, and realizes that the use of broadband
3 can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to helping students
6 obtain the highest-quality education incorporating digital literacy, and also understands that
7 high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices at school and at
8 home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to reducing its carbon
10 footprint and recognizes that broadband is a strategic “green” technology that decreases
11 greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on foreign oil by enabling e-government and the
12 provision of more services online; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to Digital Inclusion
14 and increasing citizen participation in the public process through expanded engagement using
15 broadband; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The City and County of San Francisco has the opportunity to impact
17 broadband deployment and adoption in its several local government roles and responsibilities,
18 including as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of
19 communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The California Emerging Technology Fund has launched *Get Connected!*,
21 a public awareness program with a goal to close the Digital Divide in California; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the *Get Connected!* program will complement and enhance the
23 effectiveness of the San Francisco’s digital inclusion efforts which seek to improve broadband
24 access among seniors, adults with disabilities as well as providing neighborhood-based digital
25 media training to underserved residents; now, therefore be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that the City and County of San Francisco hereby joins with 31 California
2 counties in supporting the work of the California Emerging Technology Fund's *Get Connected!*
3 program; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors embraces the
5 California Emerging Technology Fund's goal to achieve broadband Internet access at home
6 for 80% of all Californians statewide by 2015 and embraces a goal to achieve broadband
7 Internet access for 90% of San Franciscans by 2015, with a focus on connecting seniors and
8 low income households; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests that the
10 Department of Technology report back to the Board of Supervisors within six months of the
11 passage of this resolution on strategic actions planned that will remove barriers to and
12 promote the deployment and adoption of broadband.