

1 [Authorization to Gift Debenham Comedy Recording Collection to Emerson College]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Public Library to gift the Debenham Comedy**
4 **Recording Collection to Emerson College.**

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6 WHEREAS, On December 19, 1994, the San Francisco Public Library (“Library”)
7 received an unencumbered gift of comedy albums and novelty recordings from Warren
8 Debenham (“Debenham Comedy Recording Collection”); and

9 WHEREAS, The Debenham Comedy Recording Collection now includes more than
10 35,000 comedy and novelty recordings in a variety of formats, including vinyl records, 8-track
11 tapes, audio cassettes, and compact discs; and

12 WHEREAS, A portion of the Debenham Comedy Recording Collection has remained at
13 Mr. Debenham’s residence because the Library did not have adequate physical space to
14 accommodate the large collection; and

15 WHEREAS, The Library has determined that it does not have adequate physical space
16 to accommodate the Debenham Comedy Recording Collection, nor adequate resources to
17 preserve, catalogue and make the collection available to the public; and

18 WHEREAS, The Library undertook a search for other institutions that would have an
19 interest in taking the Debenham Comedy Recording Collection; and

20 WHEREAS, Emerson College, located in Boston, Massachusetts, offers educational
21 degrees with a concentration in Comedic Arts, including a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Comedic
22 Arts; and

23 WHEREAS, Emerson College has informed the Library that it would gladly accept the
24 Debenham Comedy Recording Collection, which Emerson College has the capacity to house,
25 preserve, and make available to students through its programs and curriculum; and

1 WHEREAS, Emerson College has agreed to assume the cost of transporting the
2 Debenham Comedy Recording Collection to its campus in Boston, Massachusetts; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Debenham has already gifted some items directly to Emerson College,
4 including duplicate recordings, newspaper clippings, and ephemera; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Debenham consents to and supports the Library's gift of the
6 Debenham Comedy Recording Collection to Emerson College; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Public Library is authorized to gift the Debenham
8 Comedy Recording Collection to Emerson College; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the San Francisco
10 Public Library to execute a deed gifting the Debenham Comedy Recording Collection to
11 Emerson College.

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13 Recommended:

14 _____/s/_____

15 Michael Lambert, City Librarian

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