

1 [San Francisco Law Library Justice Center]

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3 **Resolution in support of the San Francisco Law Library Justice Center at 525 Golden**  
4 **Gate Avenue.**

5 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to access to justice for  
6 all people, including the poor and under-represented; and

7 WHEREAS, A full-service law library and justice center facility would promote access to  
8 justice by bringing together in one facility the legal resources and services needed by the  
9 people of San Francisco to enable them to preserve their rights and adjudicate their claims;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Law Library is necessary to serve the people of San  
12 Francisco by providing access to local, state and federal legal information resources and  
13 services in order that they may preserve their rights and conduct their legal affairs; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Law Library has been a distinguished and leading  
15 public law library with a renowned legal collection since its founding in 1870 as the first county  
16 law library in California and was the model for the statewide county law library system; and

17 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Charter, section 8.103, requires that the City and  
18 County of San Francisco shall locate the Law Library in a manner readily accessible to the  
19 courts, and thus from its inception, the San Francisco Law Library was housed in the same  
20 building as the courts in City Hall until that building was closed for seismic repairs in 1995;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, When City Hall closed, the San Francisco Law Library moved to interim  
23 quarters in the War Memorial Veterans Building which were too small to house the Law  
24 Library's full collection making it necessary to place two-thirds of the 250,000 volume  
25 collection into inaccessible storage for the duration of the temporary relocation period; and

WHEREAS, It was originally planned that the San Francisco Law Library would return  
to City Hall at the conclusion of seismic repairs, but when City Hall reopened the plan was  
revised with the intention that the Law Library would soon move into another, permanent Civic

1 Center facility better suited to a library. During the interim, the Law Library was to remain at  
2 the temporary quarters in the Veterans Building without access to its stored collection and in  
3 conditions insufficient to house, preserve and safeguard the collection of books and research  
4 materials, or necessary to provide appropriate services and facilities for Library patrons and  
5 staff; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Law Library has been housed in these inadequate  
7 temporary quarters for almost nine years, jeopardizing the Law Library's ability to completely  
8 fulfill its mission and creating a significant crisis and hardship for the community and for the  
9 people it serves; and

10 WHEREAS, The legal needs and skills of the people of San Francisco vary and many  
11 residents cannot determine and advocate their legal rights based on legal texts alone, San  
12 Francisco is devoted to establishing a law library justice center that would provide access to  
13 the full panoply of legal information resources and services, as well as legal intake, self-help,  
14 and translation services, research training programs, alternative dispute facilities, conference,  
15 meeting and interview rooms, exhibit space, and other legal support services for individuals,  
16 the poor, and the community; and

17 WHEREAS, An extensive study of potential sites for a permanent full-service law  
18 library and justice center has concluded that renovation of the vacant building at 525 Golden  
19 Gate Avenue would be the most appropriate, efficient and economic site for the San  
20 Francisco Law Library Justice Center and that this location would successfully accommodate  
21 this planned use; and

22 WHEREAS, The proposed San Francisco Law Library Justice Center project is an  
23 innovative resource that would enable San Francisco residents to have unprecedented  
24 access to justice and establish a model for California and the country; and

25 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Law Library Justice Center project has the support of  
the Judges of the San Francisco Superior Court, the Bar Association of San Francisco, the  
Office of the Mayor, the San Francisco Law Library Board of Trustees, and thousands of  
patrons of the San Francisco Law Library; and

1           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Law Library Justice Center would be funded by a  
2 coalition of public and private resources; now, therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco  
4 hereby endorses and supports the construction of the San Francisco Law Library Justice  
5 Center at 525 Golden Gate Avenue; and be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That all steps necessary to enable the San Francisco Law  
7 Library Justice Center to be realized shall be undertaken with due diligence and speed; and  
8 be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San  
10 Francisco urges City staff, including the Mayor's Office and Mayor's Office of Public Finance,  
11 the Office of the City Architect, the Real Estate Department, the Planning Department and the  
12 City Attorney's Office to develop a financing plan to pay for rehabilitation of the building at 525  
13 Golden Gate Avenue for the San Francisco Law Library Justice Center and shall provide a  
14 written report to the Board of Supervisors summarizing such financing plan within 120 days;  
15 and be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That when a proposed funding scheme has been developed,  
17 the Project shall be returned to the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
18 Francisco for review and approval; and be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be and is hereby  
20 directed to deliver copies of this resolution, duly certified, to the Trustees of the San Francisco  
21 Law Library, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of the City and County of San  
22 Francisco, and the Bar Association of San Francisco.  
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