

1 [Supporting attempts in the California State Legislature to overturn the *Copley* decision].

2

3 Resolution urging the California State Legislature to uphold the public's right to access
4 misconduct information about public employees by supporting legislation to overturn the
5 *Copley* Decision.

6

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has consistently supported civilian
8 oversight of the Police Department; and

9 WHEREAS, The Police Commission has had a practice of holding public hearings
10 regarding police misconduct complaints; and,

11 WHEREAS, Openness and transparency in law enforcement engender better police
12 community relations and lead to a more accountable and effective police department; and,

13 WHEREAS, The California Supreme Court issued an opinion in *Copley Press v.*
14 *Superior Court* last August that held records of police conduct cases heard by the San Diego
15 Civil Service Commission were confidential records of the San Francisco Police Commission;
16 and,

17 WHEREAS, The *Copley* decision has had the effect of closing down police oversight
18 hearings across the state including the hearings and records of the San Francisco Police
19 Commission; and,

20 WHEREAS, The public has a right of access to misconduct information about other
21 public employees; and,

22 WHEREAS, The effects of the *Copley* decision has been to reduce openness and
23 transparency and create a level of secrecy in police records that is greater than that of most
24 other states; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Legislation will be introduced this term in the California State Legislature
2 that would open up these records and overturn the *Copley* decision; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco support legislation overturning
4 the *Copley* decision; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this issue be one of the top legislative priorities for the
6 City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County direct its lobbyists to devote all
8 necessary time and resources to ensure passage of this legislation.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25