

1 [Urging Social Media Companies to Mitigate Harmful Effects and Improve Transparency]

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3 **Resolution urging Facebook, Twitter, Google, and other social media platforms to take**
4 **responsibility for the harmful effects of their products and improve transparency by**
5 **publishing all internal research.**

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7 WHEREAS, On September 13, 2021, the Wall Street Journal released the first story in
8 an investigation titled “The Facebook Files”; and

9 WHEREAS, This investigation found, based on internal company documents and
10 research, that “Facebook Inc. knows, in acute detail, that its platforms are riddled with flaws
11 that cause harm”; and

12 WHEREAS, This investigation revealed that researchers inside Instagram found
13 “Thirty-two percent of teen girls said that when they felt bad about their bodies, Instagram
14 made them feel worse”; and

15 WHEREAS, Internal research also found that “among teens who reported suicidal
16 thoughts, 13% of British users and 6% of American users traced the desire to kill themselves
17 to Instagram”; and

18 WHEREAS, Facebook employees attempted to alert company leadership that human
19 traffickers, armed groups in Ethiopia, and other dangerous actors were utilizing the platform;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, A report by the Center for Countering Digital Hate titled “The
22 Disinformation Dozen,” concludes that Facebook, Google, and Twitter have all “failed to
23 satisfactorily enforce” policies intended to prevent the spread of vaccine misinformation; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Wall Street Journal found that Facebook “hasn’t fixed the systems
2 that allowed offenders to repeat the bad behavior. Instead priority is given to retaining users,
3 helping business partners and at times placating authoritarian governments”; and

4 WHEREAS, The Wall Street Journal found that Facebook has few employees who
5 speak the languages and dialects necessary to reign in harmful use of their platform in some
6 of the countries where it operates; and

7 WHEREAS, Last year the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in a resolution on file
8 with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 201072, unanimously condemned social
9 media platforms for failing to intervene in antisemitic and homophobic attacks on Senator
10 Scott Wiener and protect their users from hate speech; and

11 WHEREAS, In spite of abundant research and numerous reports from employees
12 highlighting the harms of major social media platforms and the steps necessary to mitigate
13 them, their leadership has consistently chosen to prioritize profits at the cost of civil society,
14 youth mental health, and countless human lives; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby urges Facebook,
16 Twitter, and Google leadership to take responsibility for the harmful effects of their products;
17 and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby urges all
19 social media platforms to take additional steps to mitigate their harmful effects, including but
20 not limited to fully implementing the recommendations in the “Disinformation Dozen” report,
21 hiring additional staff to review content with a focus on global equity, and limiting the number
22 of hours users can spend on a platform per day; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby urges all
24 social media platforms to release all internal research so the public can engage in an informed
25 decision-making process about how best to engage with and regulate them; and, be it

1 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
2 of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the Chief Executive Officers of Facebook,
3 Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram upon its final adoption.

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