

1 [This resolution condemns exorbitant phone call prices in San Francisco hotels and urges the
2 City Attorney to investigate the phone call pricing practices.]

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4 **Resolution condemning exorbitant phone call prices in San Francisco hotels and**
5 **urging the City Attorney to investigate the legalities of such price gouging.**

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7 WHEREAS, Tourism plays a vital role in San Francisco's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Hotel Council, tourism adds 6.5 billion dollars into our
9 economy, provides more than 95,000 jobs, and provides hundreds of millions of dollars
10 in taxes for the city's operating expenses; and

11 WHEREAS, the Hotel Council has identified problems outside of the hotel industry that
12 they believe adversely affect San Francisco tourists; and

13 WHEREAS, A recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle identified unconscionable
14 practices within the hotel industry that exploit San Francisco tourists; and

15 WHEREAS, Certain San Francisco hotels are engaging in telephone call pricing
16 practices that directly affect San Francisco tourists; and

17 WHEREAS, a ten-minute local call is free from a home phone, 35 cents from a pay
18 phone, and over \$30 at certain San Francisco hotels; and

19 WHEREAS, a six-minute phone call to Japan costs less than a dollar using a 10-10
20 service but more than \$77 at a San Francisco hotel; and

21 WHEREAS, The burden of these outrageous prices falls disproportionately on
22 international travelers who may not have access to or understanding of alternatives to hotel
23 phones; and

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1 WHEREAS, Since most high-end hotels are not locally owned, the dollars currently
2 spent on unjustifiably expensive phone calls are not being spent and recirculated in the local
3 economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Exorbitant prices discourage tourism; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Hotel Council to address the
6 outrageous pricing practices that discourage tourism; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urge the City Attorney to
8 investigate these price-gouging practices and to take any legal action to end such practices.

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