

1 [Commitment to Monitor and Defend the Confidentiality of the 2020 Census Data Collection
2 Efforts]

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3 **Resolution affirming the City and County of San Francisco’s commitment to monitor**
4 **2020 Census data collection efforts for breaches of confidentiality and to defend the**
5 **privacy of 2020 Census respondents against the possibility of such breaches.**

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7 WHEREAS, For more than 200 years, the United States Constitution has required an
8 enumeration of all persons residing in the United States every ten years; and

9 WHEREAS, The decennial Census required by the Constitution can only succeed if all
10 households participate by accurately completing the census questionnaire; and

11 WHEREAS, Results from the 2020 Census help direct billions of dollars in federal
12 funds to local communities for schools, roads, hospitals, and other public services; and

13 WHEREAS, Census responses will also be used to determine the number of seats
14 California receives in Congress and the political representation of San Francisco residents at
15 all levels of government; and

16 WHEREAS, In 21st century America, households must be confident that information
17 provided to the Census Bureau as part of the Census is confidential and will not be used for
18 any purpose other than producing anonymous statistics; and

19 WHEREAS, Census respondents must be assured that the Census Bureau will not
20 share any data pertaining to a specific individual or household with any other government
21 agency, court of law, or private entity for any purpose, or release any data that could
22 undermine the confidentiality of personal information; and

23 WHEREAS, Federal law under Title 13 of the U.S. Code aims to protect Census data
24 confidentiality by making it illegal for the Census Bureau to disclose census responses to
25 other government agencies or in any way that would personally identify a respondent; and

1 WHEREAS, Nonetheless, high levels of distrust in government reduces confidence
2 among members of the public that federal law can guarantee the confidentiality of census
3 data; and

4 WHEREAS, Trust in the federal government under the current administration is at an
5 extreme low, especially among communities of color, and many people are fearful that their
6 responses to the 2020 Census might be used against them or their families for immigration or
7 law enforcement purposes; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to many hard-to-count communities that have been
9 historically underrepresented in previous census efforts, including households who are low-
10 income, who are immigrant, who are renters, or who have limited-English proficiency; and

11 WHEREAS, It is important to bolster confidence in census data protection in order to
12 facilitate a successful 2020 Census; and

13 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco believes that protection of census
14 data confidentiality is essential to a successful Census and to a healthy and thriving
15 democracy; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms the City and County of San
17 Francisco's commitment to closely monitor and defend against any breach of census data
18 confidentiality during the 2020 Census; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will coordinate with the Office
20 of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, the City Attorney's office, and other interested city
21 departments to leverage their collective influence to prevent or bring to an end any breach of
22 the guarantee of confidentiality for data collected as a part of the 2020 Census; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will continue to emphasize the
24 importance of census safety and security throughout the duration of the 2020 Census; and, be
25 it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms its commitment to use
2 transparency, publicity, investigation, or litigation to challenge any breach or threatened
3 breach so that all San Franciscans can remain assured that personally identifiable census
4 data will not be misused and will remain confidential.

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