

1 [Bernal Heights preschool.]

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3 **Resolution urging that the Bernal Preschool return to the Bernal Branch Library upon**
4 **completion of the Branch Library Renovation.**

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6 Whereas, with the successful passage of Proposition A in 2000 of a \$106,000,000
7 Branch Library Bond, the San Francisco Public Library Commission approves the plans for
8 the implementation of the renovation and retrofit of branch libraries subject to the review of the
9 Board of Supervisors; and

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11 Whereas, the Commission voted on March 17, 2005, as part of their approval of the
12 Bernal Branch renovation plan to not expand the building's physical plan and to evict the
13 Bernal Preschool from the building; and

14 Whereas, the San Francisco Public Library Bernal Branch Renovation is estimated to
15 cost \$4,939,069 including a 15% contingency for a 9,865 expanded building at a cost of \$500
16 per square foot which is extremely high; and

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18 Whereas, the Bernal Preschool would occupy only 13% of the expanded building; and

19 Whereas, the Bernal Preschool has been located in 1300 square feet of the lower level
20 of the Bernal Branch Public Library for almost 30 years operated by City College of San
21 Francisco, rent free from the city; and

22 Whereas, the Bernal Preschool has been serving annually, 25 3-5 year olds from low-
23 income Bernal families of color in a safe, nurturing environment for our children to learn and
24 prepare for entry into elementary school; and

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1 Whereas, Bernal residents under the leadership of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood
2 Center have actively raised funds and participated in the planning and advocacy of the
3 renovations of the Bernal Playground playstructure and the Bernal Playground gymnasium, to
4 keep the Bernal library open despite Mayoral and library administration attempts to close it,
5 and the renovation of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center to develop a community civic
6 center to better serve those Bernal families most in need and maintain the racial and
7 economic diversity of Bernal Heights; and
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9 Whereas, Bernal Community residents under the leadership of the Bernal Heights
10 Neighborhood Center have actively participated in the planning and advocacy for the
11 expansion of the Ingleside Police Station's Community Policing program to Cortland Avenue,
12 and the revitalization of Cortland's commercial corridor; and

13 Whereas, School Readiness is one of the primary goals of the Educate America Act
14 passed by Congress in 1994, and preparing preschoolers for learning has been identified as
15 one of the eight major roles that libraries can play in their communities which characterize
16 libraries as the preschoolers door to learning; and
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18 Whereas, *the Save the Bernal Preschool – Stop The Eviction Campaign* which
19 supports the expansion of Bernal library services and believes this is a great community
20 opportunity to enhance the interfacing between the preschool and the public library staff and
21 clients (families and patrons) and make the library a significant part of the lives of our children
22 and families; and
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1 Whereas, *the Save the Bernal Preschool – Stop The Eviction Campaign* has waged a
2 13 month campaign to stop the eviction and find a more creative partnership between the
3 community and the library bringing together parents and grandparents of current and former
4 students, community members, practitioners, and professionals to join forces to stop the
5 eviction of this highly valued preschool and their families and advocate for the return to the
6 library after renovation; and

7 Whereas, the relocation to site in a very low performing school underlines the overly
8 high concentration of poverty of these children and takes them away from the more accessible
9 community hub, and provides a smaller area than the current site including a \$1416.00
10 monthly rent payment that could instead go towards maintaining quality and program
11 enhancements directly benefiting the children; and

12 Whereas, *the Save the Bernal Preschool – Stop The Eviction Campaign* has the
13 support of numerous individuals and organizations including the Bernal Heights Neighborhood
14 Center and City College Board of Trustees to return to library after the renovation; and

15 Whereas, the temporary site for Bernal preschool, located at Paul Revere Elementary
16 School, can become a permanent location for another program thus, doubling the preschool
17 and/or child care slots in Bernal at both sites, which is a priority site for the City’s “Preschool
18 for All” program and also in anticipation of the proposed universal preschool state initiative;
19 and now therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, that the Library Commission hold a 3rd community meeting which would
21 allow for preschool families and supporters as well as other community members to
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1 participate in the design planning for the renovation of Bernal Branch Library with sufficient
2 notice to the community; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Budget Analyst to
4 review the library's Schematic Design Estimate Summary for the Bernal Branch Renovation
5 and its' estimated cost of \$500 per square foot; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors instruct the Budget Analyst to review
7 the library budget to identify funds to support the accurate cost of the Bernal library building
8 expansion including the Bernal preschool; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisor request the Mayor's Budget Director
10 to identify budget funds to support the building expansion to include the preschool, which the
11 current library budget presumably can not support; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors instruct the City Attorney to
13 review the 2000 Branch Library Bond and determine how the branch expansion can take
14 place without the Bernal Preschool being required to contribute to the cost of the mandated
15 building upgrade but assuming that it will contribute for the tenant improvements of the
16 renovation for preschool use; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors request the San Francisco
18 Library Commission to reconsider its prior decision and state in unequivocal terms the
19 condition of the return of the preschool to the Bernal Branch Library after the completion of the
20 renovations; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors communicate to the Mayor it's
2 support and willingness to work together to have the Bernal Preschool return to its current
3 location after the renovations are completed and to identify the funds to support this critical
4 and valued program.

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