

1 [Safe Haven for Newborns Task Force.]

2

3 **Resolution establishing a Safe Haven for Newborns Task Force charged with**
4 **determining how to implement SB 1368, which provides for the safe surrender of**
5 **unwanted newborns. The Task Force shall be comprised of one representative from**
6 **each of the following agencies or organizations: the Department of Public Health, the**
7 **District Attorney's Office, the Fire Department, the Department of Children Youth, and**
8 **their Families, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Youth Commission (or their**
9 **designee), the San Francisco Unified School District, the Mental Health Board, the**
10 **Department of Human Services, the Police Department, and a member of the**
11 **community with expertise in the area of domestic violence.**

12

13 WHEREAS, Newborn babies in California are being abandoned and frequently die
14 before being discovered; and,

15 WHEREAS, Previous sections of the California Health and Safety Codes may have
16 prohibited desperate people from behaving in a humane and responsible way; and,

17 WHEREAS, In response, Senator James Brulte authored, and the California
18 Legislature passed, Senate Bill (SB) 1368 in 2001 which repealed certain aspects of this
19 Code and, in turn, provided assistance to women and their families in crisis and provided a
20 haven for infants to be safely surrendered; and,

21 WHEREAS, Governor Davis signed into law the "Safe Haven Law" which went into
22 effect on January 1, 2001. Since enactment of this law we continue to read many accounts of
23 abandoned babies. Moreover, there may be many abandoned babies not found; and,

24

25

1 WHEREAS, This “Safe Haven” legislation allows a parent to bring an infant within 72
2 hours of its birth to a hospital or other designated location and voluntarily surrender the infant
3 without fear of penalty; and,

4 WHEREAS, Despite passage of this legislation, successful implementation of the Safe
5 Haven Law has been limited due to a general lack of knowledge about the law and where and
6 how to safely surrender a baby; and,

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, in an effort to more fully support
8 and educate the women and their families who may wish to utilize the Safe Haven legislation,
9 does hereby establish a Task Force to address the issue; and,

10 WHEREAS, Members of this Task Force will be able to provide valuable input into the
11 most effective manner in which to educate the public and provide outreach to women and
12 families in crisis; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 does hereby establish a Task Force which shall be called the Safe Haven for Newborns Task
15 Force and shall be subject to the Sunshine Ordinance; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall include:

17 One (1) representative from the Department of Public Health,

18 One (1) representative from the District Attorney’s Office,

19 One (1) representative from the Juvenile Probation Department,

20 One (1) representative from the Fire Department,

21 One (1) representative from the Department of Children, Youth, and their

22 Families,

23 One (1) representative from the Youth Commission (or their designee),

24 One (1) representative from the San Francisco Unified School District,

25 One (1) representative from the Mental Health Board,

1 One (1) representative from the Department of Human Services, and
2 One (1) representative from the Police Department; and,
3 One (1) representative from the community with expertise in the area of
4 domestic violence; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Task Force shall meet on a regular and consistent
6 basis in order to evaluate the most efficient manner for the City and County of San Francisco
7 to implement SB 1368 and to educate the citizens of San Francisco on the Safe Haven
8 legislation; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Task Force shall report within six months of the
10 establishment of this Task Force its findings, concerns, and recommendations to the Board of
11 Supervisors.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25