

1 [Need for Multilingual 2010 Census Advance Letter]

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3 **Resolution calling for an inclusive and multilingual advance letter in the 2010 Census.**

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5 WHEREAS, In advance of each decennial Census, the United States Census Bureau
6 issues an informational letter notifying all households of the upcoming Census count process;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a large number of foreign-born and non-English
9 speaking residents, where over 270,000 are immigrants, 61% from Asian countries, 21% from
10 Latin America, and over 325,000 San Francisco residents speak a language other than
11 English at home; and

12 WHEREAS, In advance of the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau sent an advance
13 letter to all San Francisco residents that provided information in five non-English languages,
14 including Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog; and

15 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau has decided to provide the 2010 Census
16 advance letter in only English to most households, and in English and Spanish in some areas;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The California Constitution requires reapportionment of the State electoral
19 districts based on data collected through the decennial Census, and the San Francisco City
20 Charter requires Census data to apportion legislative districts for the eleven-member Board of
21 Supervisors; and

22 WHEREAS, A significant number of San Francisco residents will have difficulties
23 understanding the proposed 2010 advance letter and are unlikely to respond if the letter does
24 not provide information in multiple languages; and

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1 WHEREAS, at least 100,000 San Francisco residents were left out of the 2000
2 Census, costing the City over \$300 million in federal dollars over the past 10 years; and

3 WHEREAS, An inaccurate 2010 Census count would deprive San Francisco of
4 hundreds of millions of dollars in government funding, hinder the City's ability to provide vital
5 services to its residents, and potentially distort electoral districts in the reapportionment
6 process; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United States
8 Census Bureau to institute policies that do not undermine the accuracy of the Census,
9 especially in counting the residents of San Francisco; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls specifically
11 on the United States Census Bureau to send a multilingual advance letter to every household
12 in San Francisco; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges its
14 Congressional delegation to advocate for a multilingual advance letter to support an equitable
15 2010 Census process.