

1 [Resolution urging United States Postal Service to recognize SROs as permanent housing]

2
3 **Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to recognize SROs as permanent**
4 **low-cost housing for many of San Franciscans, and to afford SRO residents the right to**
5 **receive their mail with the same security and privacy as tenants of traditional**
6 **apartments.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The high cost of rental housing in San Francisco makes Single Room
9 Occupancy residential hotels (SROs) the only permanently affordable housing option for
10 many of the seniors, immigrants, families and individuals on low or fixed incomes; and

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has recognized the essential role of
12 SROs and utilized them as a valuable resource to permanently house more than 1,300
13 formerly homeless people in the city's Master Lease Program, having become a national
14 model for permanent supportive housing and an important part of finding a solution to the
15 homeless problem; and,

16 WHEREAS, A number of non-profit-owned or managed SROs have installed mailboxes
17 in accordance with United States Postal Service specifications in their lobbies; and,

18 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service refuses to deliver mail directly to the
19 boxes in these buildings, stating that SROs are 'transient hotels' and not eligible for direct
20 delivery service; and,

21 WHEREAS, The USPS insists on 'central delivery,' whereby mail is dropped in a bag at
22 the front desk and distributed by desk clerks; and

23 WHEREAS, Desk clerks are low-paid, under-trained, and overburdened with the extra
24 responsibility of handling mail that adds time and difficulty to their jobs, resulting in mail being
25 frequently lost, misplaced, or accidentally given to the wrong person; and,

1 WHEREAS, The USPS refuses to forward mail to tenants' new addresses when they
2 move out of SROs; and,

3 WHEREAS, This lack of services creates an undue burden for SRO tenants who must
4 return to a former address regularly and attempt to collect mail rather than have it forwarded
5 to their new address as the USPS does for apartment tenants; and,

6 WHEREAS, The Postmaster's Office has stated that section 631.44 of the US Postal
7 Operations Manual calls for Central Delivery to SROs, not delivery to individual mailboxes,
8 when, in fact, this section contains no language that would prohibit the direct delivery to
9 individual mailboxes in SROs, and,

10 WHEREAS, Mail security and privacy is high priority for SRO tenants, many of whom
11 must receive SSI, Veterans Disability, or paychecks on time in order to pay their rent for the
12 month; and,

13 WHEREAS, Lost or delayed mail has resulted in SRO tenants having been bumped to
14 the back of the Section 8 list after years of waiting, or losing out on other essential services
15 because of missed appointments; and,

16 WHEREAS, Many have been homeless before and are understandably afraid that lost
17 or misplaced mail could result in homelessness again; and,

18 WHEREAS, At the Central City SRO Collaborative's 2003 tenant convention, attended
19 by 300 tenants from more than 100 San Francisco SROs, "Problems with mail distribution in
20 the hotels" ranked as one of the most pressing issues for tenants surveyed; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States
22 Postal Service to recognize SROs as permanent low-cost housing for many of San
23 Francisco's low-income citizens, and as such, afford SRO residents the right to receive their
24 mail with the same security and privacy as tenants of traditional apartments.
25



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 040841

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to recognize Single Room Occupancy as permanent low-cost housing for many San Franciscans, and to afford residents the right to receive their mail with the same security and privacy as tenants of traditional apartments.

June 15, 2004 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

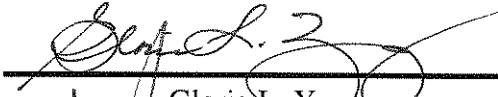
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 040841

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 15, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

JUN 21 2004

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Gavin Newsom