

1 [Opposing Anti-Abortion Banners on Market Street]

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3 **Resolution opposing the anti-abortion banners on Market Street, urging the dedication**
4 **of banner proceeds to the Department of Public Health for a campaign advancing**
5 **accurate and scientifically verifiable education about women’s reproductive health, and**
6 **requesting the review of banner regulations to assess whether the banners were**
7 **issued in violation of City law.**

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9 WHEREAS, Banners falsely claiming that "Abortion hurts women" are hanging from the
10 City’s publicly managed lamp posts on Market Street in San Francisco; and

11 WHEREAS, Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States and
12 the risk of death is 12 times higher for carrying a pregnancy to term, compared with abortion,
13 according to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and

14 WHEREAS, Many women routinely lost their lives from illegal abortions before the
15 landmark Supreme Court Case, *Roe v. Wade*, legalized abortion in 1973; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, deaths from abortion have all but disappeared; and

17 WHEREAS, One in three American women will have an abortion by age 45 and 95% of
18 heterosexually active couples have used birth control; and

19 WHEREAS, Denied abortion care perpetuates poverty, and women with incomes
20 below 200% of the federal poverty level are already five times more likely to have unintended
21 pregnancies; and

22 WHEREAS, Access to legal and affordable family planning health care services has
23 been integral to expanding opportunities for success and satisfaction by women and girls in
24 the emotional, economic, educational and professional spheres, as well as for the men and
25 children in their lives and for communities as a whole; and

1 WHEREAS, Recent campaigns to restrict abortion rights have increased sharply since
2 2011, comprising local, state and federal legislation facilitating access to reproductive health
3 care; and

4 WHEREAS, We are proud that San Francisco and California have strong policies to
5 assure women’s reproductive health rights, which include ready access to affordable and legal
6 family planning services, including abortion care; and

7 WHEREAS, The prominent display of false anti-abortion statements on public property
8 on Market Street misrepresents the City’s support for reproductive health, rights, and justice,
9 undermines women’s personal and private medical decisions, and thereby undermines public
10 health; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee co-sponsored a resolution approved by the
12 U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2012 affirming the importance of women's reproductive rights;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2013, the City and County of San Francisco commemorated
15 the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and commended the work of pro-choice advocates and
16 service providers in the City; now therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors fully supports the first amendment right to
18 un-abridged freedom of speech but opposes the anti-abortion messages on the banners
19 hanging on Market Street and does not support the views of the rally to be held by anti-
20 abortion groups in San Francisco on January 25, 2014; and be it,

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges review of the City’s
22 permitting process of the banners as the banners appear to violate City regulations in several
23 respects, including failure to fit a category of permissible banners, failure to display an
24 accurate date for a related event, and failure to avoid lamp posts that also display holiday
25 snowflakes; and be it,

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City devote all proceeds from the anti-abortion
2 banners to a Department of Public Health campaign to educate vulnerable populations
3 regarding accurate and scientifically verifiable information about reproductive health and
4 rights, including accurate information about the safety of abortions.

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