

1 [Endorsing Old Mint Grant Application.]

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3 **Resolution endorsing the application to the California Cultural and Historical**  
4 **Endowment (CCHE) by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society for CCHE**  
5 **Grant Funds for the project to preserve the historical Old Mint and create therein a San**  
6 **Francisco History Museum.**

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8 WHEREAS, The Old Mint, located at 88 Fifth Street in San Francisco, dedicated in  
9 1874, in one of the last major Greek Revival buildings in the country associated with federal  
10 architecture, is San Francisco’s oldest stone structure, and was designated a National  
11 Historic Landmark in 1961; and

12 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is the owner of the Old Mint,  
13 pursuant to the transfer of the title from the federal government and the execution of a  
14 Programmatic Agreement under which conditions for the use of the building are carefully set  
15 forth, chief among them being the necessity of assuming substantial public access to the Old  
16 Mint and rehabilitation of the building according to the Historic Preservation Standards of the  
17 Secretary of the Interior as interpreted by the State Historic Preservation Officer; and,

18 WHEREAS, Following a competitive process conducted by the Mayor’s Old Mint Task  
19 force which included substantial public input and professional expert advice, the Task Force  
20 recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the proposal by the San Francisco Museum  
21 and Historical Society (“The Society”) to transform the Old Mint into a City history museum be  
22 accepted, and that the City enter into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with the  
23 Society for a 66-year lease for the property; and,

24 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors endorsed the ENA process with the Society,  
25 which entails the negotiating of lease terms and a development agreement which, among

1 other conditions, guarantees ongoing project maintenance, viable financing, public access,  
2 compliance with the Secretary's Standards as determined by the State Historic Preservation  
3 Officer and meeting all appropriate environmental regulations; and,

4 WHEREAS, The ENA process is proceeding and , by the end of calendar year 2004,  
5 the proposed agreements by the City and the Society governing lease terms and  
6 development should be before the Board of Supervisors for its consideration; and,

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Museum and Historical Society Advisory Committee  
8 (Sec. 2A.166, San Francisco Administrative Code) has been established by the Mayor and  
9 the Board of Supervisors to publicly discuss and make recommendations to the City on a  
10 variety of issues regarding the establishment of a great San Francisco City History Museum,  
11 including, among other issues, "strategies to promote citywide communication and  
12 partnership between various local organizations that hold historical/cultural resources"; and,

13 WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee was appointed pursuant to City policy that the  
14 members of all boards, commissions and committees be broadly representative of the  
15 diversity in ethnicity, race, age and sexual orientation of the City and County and have  
16 representation of both sexes; and,

17 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the various committees and  
18 officials of the City and County of San Francisco who are charged with responsibilities  
19 regarding the Old Mint History Museum project, and on behalf of the citizens of San Francisco  
20 who support a museum to tell the stories of all San Franciscans, has viewed approvingly the  
21 efforts by the Society to bring to this ambitious project the funding it requires, from various  
22 public ad private sources; and,

23 WHEREAS, It is clear that substantial funding will be required for the seismic retrofit  
24 and preservation of this historic unreinforced masonry building; and,

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1           WHEREAS, The people the State of California have enacted the California Clean  
2 Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 which  
3 provides funds to the State of California for the California Cultural and Historical Endowment  
4 (CCHE) Grant Program; and,

5           WHEREAS, The CCHE has determined that, of the \$122 million in Proposition 40  
6 funds available for the CCHE competitive grant program, up to \$35 million will be made  
7 available for funding of the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of the first round; and,

8           WHEREAS, The Society has decided to apply for a matching grant of \$5 million, the  
9 maximum grant allowable under CCHE guidelines, to assist in the design and seismic retrofit  
10 process for the Old Mint project; and,

11           WHEREAS, The Old Mint project clearly falls within the purview of CCHE's charge to  
12 provide grants for the restoration, preservation and interpretation of California's historical and  
13 cultural resources; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the application by the  
15 San Francisco museum and Historical Society to the California Cultural and Historical  
16 Endowment for a grant in the amount of \$5 million to assist in the design and seismic retrofit  
17 of the historic Old Mint as a central part of the effort to rehabilitate and restore the building to  
18 house a San Francisco City History Museum; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the California Cultural and Historical Endowment is  
20 respectfully urged to give this application its most serious consideration.

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