

1 [Urging the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission to Move and Video Record  
2 Meetings]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission to move its**  
4 **meetings to City Hall, video record its meetings, and make all video recordings publicly**  
5 **accessible on its website.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, On October 16, 2012, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
8 unanimously adopted Resolution 378-12, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in  
9 File No. 130588, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully  
10 herein, urging the San Francisco Housing Authority (“SFHA”) Commission to hold its meetings  
11 at City Hall and broadcast them for greater public access; and

12 WHEREAS, To date the SFHA Commission continues to meet outside of City Hall and  
13 does not videotape meetings; and

14 WHEREAS, In February 2013, six of the seven members of the SFHA Commission  
15 resigned and the Mayor replaced those members with City Staff; and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Housing Authority (“SFHA”) is in crisis and has been  
17 declared “troubled” by the U.S. Housing and Development (“HUD”); and

18 WHEREAS, The HUD rating, “troubled,” is the lowest classification prior to HUD  
19 placing an agency under Federal receivership; and

20 WHEREAS, For the last three years the SFHA has faced million dollar deficits, has no  
21 cash reserves, and is imminently expected to run out of cash; and

22 WHEREAS, Because of the SFHA’s poor performance, San Francisco has not been  
23 able to take advantage of HUD programs like, “Moving to Work,” that allow local public  
24 housing authorities flexibility in the use of Federal funds in order to institute innovative  
25 programs at housing sites to benefit residents; and

1           WHEREAS, The SFHA has had poor financial management leading to the current  
2 crisis including: the use of one time property sale assets to balance the budget, failure to  
3 collect delinquent rents from tenants, maintenance of a high vacancy rate of 5.1%, and  
4 absence of a Chief Financial Officer or long term financial plan; and

5           WHEREAS, The SFHA has lost potential revenue from HUD, including the loss of \$7.5  
6 million, because of its failure to implement a HUD best practice requiring an asset  
7 management program in which budgets and operations would be managed by property  
8 managers at each public housing site instead of central management; and

9           WHEREAS, The SFHA has been failing to oversee its procurement contracts leading to  
10 potential overcharges by Recology and the San Francisco Police Department and a  
11 needlessly expensive contract with the Department of Public Works; and

12           WHEREAS, Until recently, the SFHA Commission has let important subcommittees  
13 lapse, including the Finance Committee; and

14           WHEREAS, The SFHA has no comprehensive staffing analysis; and

15           WHEREAS, Over at least the past four years, key senior staff at the SFHA have been  
16 in an “acting” capacity for extended periods of time, preventing the leadership and stability  
17 needed to address the ongoing program deficiencies; and

18           WHEREAS, Due to the SFHA’s poor financial management, lack of governance and  
19 oversight, and unsound procurement practices, San Franciscans lowest income residents are  
20 suffering; and

21           WHEREAS, Current Housing Authority residents are living in unacceptable conditions,  
22 with a current backlog of 2,853 outstanding requests for repairs; and

23           WHEREAS, The current Public Housing vacancy rate of 276 units is intolerable when  
24 26,070 families are on the waiting list for public housing; and

25

1           WHEREAS, The fact that SFHA has not updated its Section 8 waiting list since 2001  
2 leads to unacceptable delays for the 8,974 San Francisco households on the waiting list, as  
3 the SFHA has to typically complete the intake process for 80 applicants in order to find one  
4 viable candidate that is still eligible for the Section 8 program; and

5           WHEREAS, The SFHA Commission currently meets outside of City Hall, meeting  
6 minutes do not offer full transcripts of Commission business, and audio recordings of  
7 meetings are not made available to the public; and

8           WHEREAS, Any extra cost to the SFHA to videotape and broadcast its meetings could  
9 be paid for with cost savings from better financial management and oversight over  
10 procurement contracts; and

11           WHEREAS, Any additional costs to videotape meetings is justified by more accessible  
12 meetings that will encourage greater public oversight of Commission business and will  
13 promote more citizen participation; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the SFHA  
15 Commission to move its meetings to City Hall; and, be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the SFHA  
17 to video record all meetings and make those recordings available to the public on its website.

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25