

1 [Adopting Principles for Regulation of Emerging Technology and Urging the City Administrator
2 to Convene an Emerging Technology Working Group]

3 **Resolution adopting guiding principles to inform future legislation regulating emerging**
4 **technology and urging the City Administrator to inform future legislation by convening**
5 **a Working Group.**

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7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is recognized as the epicenter of
8 innovation throughout the world and continues to be a leader for new ideas and emerging
9 technology; and

10 WHEREAS, The City’s tradition of welcoming all cultures and fostering diversity in its
11 people and its businesses has organically led to it embracing technological innovation; and

12 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors is proud to have encouraged and facilitated this
13 environment of creative innovation, and will continue to play that role in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 12% of San Francisco’s workforce is
15 employed directly and up to 25% indirectly by the innovation economy; and

16 WHEREAS, Technology and innovation have many positive effects, including on our
17 health, safety, overall quality of life, and economy, but thoughtful regulation is also necessary
18 to ensure that social benefits are maximized; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2003 The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the
20 Precautionary Principle as a general City policy and was codified as Chapter One of the San
21 Francisco Environment Code; and

22 WHEREAS, This key element of the Precautionary Principle states that every San
23 Franciscan has an equal right to a healthy and safe environment and requires that our air,
24 water, land, and food be of a sufficiently high standard that individuals and communities can
25 live healthy, fulfilling, and dignified lives; and

1 WHEREAS, Often technological advancements outpace the ability to thoughtfully
2 regulate; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result, many businesses—and in some cases entire industries—have
4 launched and grown with little regulation or oversight, resulting in unnecessary and
5 unmitigated public impact; and

6 WHEREAS, “Emerging Technologies” shall be defined as technology in active
7 development that stands to have a temporary or permanent physical impact on the public
8 realm, and by doing so, has the potential to positively or negatively impact the quality of life for
9 San Franciscans; and

10 WHEREAS, Such technologies, because of their nascence, generally lack regulatory
11 oversight; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City Administrator to convene a
13 Work Group to develop recommendations on a regulatory and permitting process for
14 Emerging Technology; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City Administrator to
16 develop plans for organizing and convening such a Work Group within 60 days; and, be it

17 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends its desire that the Work
18 Group consist of representatives from a broad range of expertise, including individuals in the
19 technology industry, manufacturing, small business owners, labor leaders, community
20 stakeholders and City departments; be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, request the Work Group to
22 submit their recommendations 6 months after it is established, following the submission of
23 recommendations to the Board of Supervisors the Work Group will terminate; and ,be it
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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors, in adopting this resolution shall
2 use the following guiding principles for Emerging Technology that shall guide both the
3 recommendations of the Work Group and any future legislation;

- 4 • Should provide a net common good, with consideration on whether such
5 emerging technology benefits the few at the expense of the many; and
- 6 • The safety, needs, and convenience of humans shall be prioritized over any
7 emerging technology use; and
- 8 • The needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, including
9 seniors, children, and those with mobility or other limitations are adequately
10 considered; and
- 11 • The testing or piloting of any technology provide the greatest emphasis on
12 ensuring public safety, including a manual human override as appropriate; and
- 13 • Any direct or indirect costs on the use of public infrastructure should be paid by
14 the owner or operator of the technology and not by the public; and
- 15 • Data sharing with relevant public agencies should be a condition of any
16 authorization to use the public realm; and
- 17 • In evaluating the public benefit of any emerging technology, the potential
18 impact on congestion on roads, sidewalks, and public spaces should be
19 carefully considered; and
- 20 • Where appropriate, provide preference to those technologies that support
21 rather than reduce the labor force in San Francisco; and
- 22 • Where appropriate and feasible, technologies should include labeling,
23 individual permit identifiers, business information, and emergency contact
24 information for those responsible for the deployment of products; and

- 1 • Where technology should protect private information of individuals, such
2 information should be protected and appropriate informed consent given; and
- 3 • Public-Private partnerships in Emerging Technology should be considered and
4 evaluated to the highest standard, including any benefits, impacts, and costs to
5 the City or the public infrastructure; and
- 6 • Any regulation should be nimble and responsive to changing conditions and
7 demands; and

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors is committed to investigating
9 and adopting legislation including recommendations for a dedicated Office of Emerging
10 Technology with appropriate staffing to ensure that City government is adequately nimble and
11 responsive to address the impacts of emerging technologies in San Francisco.