[Digital Divide Task Force]

ESTABLISHING A JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIGITAL DIVIDE TASK FORCE TO WORK TO AMELIORATE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN SAN FRANCISCO BY ENSURING GREATER ACCESS TO THE TOOLS OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AMONG DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND SETTING FORTH THE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, Computer and Internet skills are becoming increasingly important to succeed in school and in the workplace and as a means of gathering information; and,

WHEREAS, According to a report released by the U.S. Commerce Department in 1999, households with incomes of $75,000 and higher are more than twenty times as likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home; and,

WHEREAS, Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than African Americans or Hispanics have from any location; and,

WHEREAS, African American and Hispanic households are approximately one-third as likely to have home Internet access as households of Asian/Pacific Islander descent and roughly two-fifths as likely as White households; and,

WHEREAS, The digital divides based on education and income have increased in the last year alone; Between 1997 and 1998, the divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25
percent and the divide between those at the highest and lowest income
levels grew 29 percent; and,

WHEREAS, According to a survey conducted by the Public Policy
Institute of California, nearly three-quarters of Bay Area residents
reported owning a computer at home, while only 40 percent of Latinos
reported such ownership; and

WHEREAS, Low income and minority students and their families
face barriers to computer and Internet access such as limited English
skills, the cost of equipment, the absence of home telephones, and a
lack of awareness about the resources and skills they can acquire
through computers and the Internet; and,

WHEREAS, While computers are still relatively expensive and
beyond the budget of many lower income families, providing machines
in public and communal spaces like schools, housing developments and
community centers and offering low cost or no cost training can
significantly increase computer and Internet use among disadvantaged
students and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County
of San Francisco hereby establishes a task force, called the Joint
Board of Education/Board of Supervisors Digital Divide Task Force, to
work to ameliorate the digital divide in San Francisco by ensuring
greater access to the tools of the digital economy among
disadvantaged students and their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Joint School Board/Board of
Supervisors Digital Divide Task Force ("Task Force") shall collect
and study data and reports that document the disparity in computer
and Internet access among different income and ethnic groups to the
extent that data is available and useful in supporting the mission of
the Task Force; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall survey public and
private sector programs that currently exist to bring the tools of
the digital economy to disadvantaged children and their families and
determine where gaps in services and resources are; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall monitor federal and
state policies and programs that are developed to address the digital
divide, shall take a position on proposed programs where appropriate,
and shall work to ensure that San Francisco receives its fair share
of any subsidies or benefits that are made available to disadvantaged
students and their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall develop proposals
for local policies and programs that would guarantee greater access
to the tools of the digital economy among disadvantaged students and
their families, shall encourage the formation of public/private
partnerships to administer and implement such programs and policies,
and shall identify and secure funding to support such programs and
policies; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be made up of 18
members including two representatives from the Board of Supervisors
appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one representative from the
Department of Telecommunications and Information Services appointed

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
by the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services, one representative from the Mayor’s Office of Housing appointed by the Mayor’s Office of Housing, one representative from the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families appointed by the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, one representative from the Mayor’s Office of Community Development appointed by the Mayor’s Office of Community Development; one representative from the Department of Human Services appointed by the Department of Human Services; one representative from the San Francisco Housing Authority appointed by the San Francisco Housing Authority; one representative from the San Francisco Board of Education appointed by the San Francisco Board of Education; one representative from the Office of the Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District appointed by the Superintendent; one representative from the Information Technology Systems Department of the San Francisco Unified School District appointed by the Information Technology Systems Department; one representative from the Financial Office of the San Francisco Board of Education appointed by the Financial Office; one representative from the Curriculum Instruction Professional Development Department of the San Francisco Unified School District appointed by the Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development Department; two (2) representatives from associations of private sector technology companies appointed by the Board of Supervisors and (1) representative from an association of private sector technology companies appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
Further resolved, that Department Human Services shall provide
education; and one representative from a private not for profit
organizations that is working to ameliorate the digital divide
problem appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and one representative
from a private not for profit organization that is working to
ameliorate the digital divide problem appointed by the Board of
Education; and, be it

Further resolved, that, once established, the Task Force shall
appoint a Chair and establish the frequency and timing of Task Force
meetings; and, be it

Further resolved, that Department Human Services shall provide
staff support for the Task Force as needed; and, be it

Further resolved, that the Task Force shall report to the Joint
School Board/Board of Supervisors Committee of the Board of
Supervisors and the Board of Education at least every six months and
to the San Francisco Board of Education at least every six months;
and, be it

Further resolved, that the Task Force shall be established upon
enactment of this resolution and shall expire two years from the date
of enactment unless a majority of the members of the Board of
Supervisors and the Board of Education vote to terminate it sooner or
extend it further.

SUPERVISOR BECERRIL
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Resolution establishing a Joint Board of Education/Board of Supervisors Digital Divide Task Force to work to ameliorate the digital divide in San Francisco by ensuring greater access to the tools of the digital economy among disadvantaged students and their families and setting forth the membership and duties of the task force.

April 3, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 8 - Ammiano, Becerril, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yee
Absent: 3 - Bierman, Brown, Yaki
File No. 000395

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 3, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

APR 14 2000
Date Approved

Mayor Willie E. Brown Jr.