WHEREAS, the Sustainability of the City and County of San Francisco establishes the goal of minimizing risks to human health and the environment by striving to eliminate hazardous materials and hazardous waste; and,

WHEREAS, batteries containing cadmium, mercury, silver, lead, cobalt, nickel, zinc or other heavy metals may be toxic, hazardous materials or hazardous waste; and,

WHEREAS, possible health effects associated with ingestion or inhalation of water, food, or air that has been contaminated with high levels of cadmium, mercury, and other heavy metals range from headaches and abdominal discomfort to seizures, cancer, comas, and even death; and,

WHEREAS, cadmium is an acutely toxic metal and a known carcinogen that has been shown to have the following toxicological effects: lung, liver, and kidney damage, fragile bones, anemia, and decrease in male fertility; and,

WHEREAS, one pre-1996 mercury battery in six tons of trash exceeds the federal government's allowable limit for mercury in solid waste; and,

WHEREAS, most batteries are discarded with ordinary municipal solid waste rather than recycled or treated as hazardous waste; and,

WHEREAS, in landfills, heavy metals in batteries have the potential to leach into soil, ground water, and surface water; and,
WHEREAS, emissions from municipal solid waste incineration are a major source of both air and water pollution, leading to bioaccumulation of mercury and cadmium in the food chain; and,
WHEREAS, batteries mixed with municipal solid waste have the potential to explode, cause fires, or harm workers when processed; and,
WHEREAS, the goal of the federal Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act of 1996 (Battery Act) is to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and encourage increased recycling of used nickel-cadmium batteries (Ni-Cd), small sealed lead-acid batteries (SSLA), and certain other batteries by making battery recycling efficient and cost-effective; and,
WHEREAS, small, round “button cell” batteries are allowed to contain up to 25mg mercury under the Battery Act, and may also contain silver, cadmium, or other heavy metals; and,
WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant number of batteries containing mercury that were manufactured prior to passage of the Battery Act have yet to be disposed; and,
WHEREAS, Ni-CD rechargeable batteries were estimated to contribute approximately 54 percent of the cadmium found in municipal solid waste in 1998; and,
WHEREAS, a rechargeable battery that can be charged up to 1,000 times can substitute for hundreds of single-use batteries over its useful life; and,
WHEREAS, US EPA reported in 1997 that 80 percent of rechargeable batteries were composed of nickel and cadmium; and,
WHEREAS, both rechargeable Ni-MH and rechargeable alkaline batteries are available in standard sizes, which make them appropriate for most battery-powered consumer devices, such as pagers, flashlights, cameras, personal stereos, etc.; and,
WHEREAS; several states including Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode
Island, and Vermont have required manufacturers and marketers of rechargeable batteries
and rechargeable battery-powered products to implement programs to inform consumers of
disposal laws for rechargeable batteries: ensure batteries and battery-powered products are
labeled to show electrolyte and disposal options; and properly collect, transport, and recycle
or dispose of the batteries and products; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urges that any City department seeking to purchase batteries shall request in the
specifications for procurement of batteries, that bidders offer rechargeable batteries, with
preference given to rechargeable alkaline batteries and rechargeable nickel metal hydride
batteries over Ni-CDS, to the maximum extent possible within the performance standards
required by the contract; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco urges that any City department requesting purchase of nonrechargeable batteries
shall set forth the performance standards required to be met necessitating the purchase of
nonrechargeable battery or battery-powered product, and shall certify that rechargeable
batteries or products powered by rechargeable batteries are unavailable to meet the contract
requirements; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco urges that any City department requesting purchase of Ni-Cd rechargeable
batteries include written justification of preference of rechargeable Ni-Cd chemistry over
rechargeable alkaline or rechargeable Ni-MH; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
Francisco requests that any rechargeable batteries purchased by the City and County of San
Francisco be delivered accompanied by detailed recycling instructions and any batteries

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containing cadmium, mercury or lead include a written explanation of the toxic hazards of these substances in the waste stream; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges that City departments buying products that include or incorporate rechargeable battery packs, give preference to products that include or incorporate rechargeable battery packs, give purchasing preference to products that include or incorporate rechargeable NI-MH batteries over NI-Cd batteries; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges City departments buying batteries or products that include or incorporate batteries, give preference to vendors that offer to take spent batteries back and recycle them; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges City departments, buying products that include or incorporate batteries, give preference to products in which the batteries are easily removable with standard tools: and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges City departments, buying battery chargers, purchase chargers that recharge Ni-MH batteries as well as NI-Cd batteries; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges manufacturers and marketers of batteries and battery powered products sold in San Francisco to work with the Solid Waste Management Program to: 1) develop and implement a program to inform City and County residents, businesses, and City departments about recycling and proper disposal of batteries; 2) ensure batteries and products are labeled to show battery chemistry and recycling and proper disposal options; 3) properly collect,
transport, and recycle the batteries and products they sell; and 4) include rechargeable alkaline batteries in their recycling schemes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Francisco urges the State of California to consider legislation that would institute a deposit system for nonrechargeable batteries and Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries and ban Ni-Cd and Ni-MH batteries from disposal in solid waste landfill and incinerators; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City County of San Francisco urges the Solid Waste Management Program to work with the Department of Public Health and battery manufacturers and recyclers to develop a plan and budget for an expanded, affordable battery recycling program for City departments, including funding of battery collection, transportation, and recycling by battery manufacturers; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County urges all City departments to participate in the City’s battery recycling program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges the Solid Waste Management Program to report annually to the Commission on the Environment on the types and amounts of batteries purchased, collected from and recycled by City departments, make recommendations to the Commission on the Environment on actions that the City could take regarding batteries, and report on the feasibility of “Extended Producer Responsibility” to address problems with batteries throughout San Francisco.
Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to request that City departments purchase and use only rechargeable batteries and urging the City and County of San Francisco to increase battery recycling.

July 9, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 9, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

Date: 7/20/01

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board