Resolution urging the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services,
the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Public Works, and the Mayor’s
Office of Public Finance to evaluate the costs, benefits, and technical issues
associated with installing broadband facilities when the City and County of San
Francisco conducts its planned rebuild of its sewer system, to enable the City and
County of San Francisco to increase the availability of bandwidth for
telecommunications, cable, and information services.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco ("City") seeks to be a leader in
providing new and innovative telecommunications, cable, and information services
(collectively, “communications services”); and

WHEREAS, One limitation on the availability of communications services is the lack of
facilities able to transmit and receive information at high speeds; and

WHEREAS, In the past, multiple communications providers have sought to install
facilities in public rights-of-way, which resulted in repeated excavation and caused disruption
to the public and damage to City streets; and,

WHEREAS, The City seeks to minimize the amount of excavation in public rights-of-
way; and

WHEREAS, The City is planning to replace or upgrade its sewer system over the next
several years, and that project will require the City to excavate many of its streets; and

WHEREAS, The City could install communications facilities when it conducts its sewer
improvement project; and
WHEREAS, The installation of high-speed bandwidth communications facilities throughout the City that can be used to provide wholesale broadband access would reduce the need for excavation of public streets in the future; and

WHEREAS, Installing high-speed bandwidth facilities that could be leased to providers of communications service could dramatically reduce the cost of market entry and thereby increase competition; and

WHEREAS, The City could seek to recover the costs of building and maintaining high-speed communications facilities through leasing the facilities to providers of communications service; and

WHEREAS, The City already has some fiberoptic facilities installed underground but such facilities are not installed throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Other local governments have installed or are installing high-speed communications facilities to provide communications services either directly or to lease such facilities to communications service providers, and such local governments may be the source of valuable information; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring adequate and affordable high-speed bandwidth facilities may yield substantial public benefits, including encouraging business development, ensuring ubiquitous and nondiscriminatory access to communications services, fostering robust civic engagement and community participation, and increasing competition, which in turn may encourage innovation and reduce prices for service; and

WHEREAS, In the course of recent cable franchise negotiations, successive local telecommunications providers have refused to negotiate and/or fully implement standard provisions won elsewhere for consumer privacy protections; discounted rates for low-income residents, seniors, and non-profit organizations; increased bandwidth for public uses; and
adequate financing and resource allocation for community-driven media production and
distribution; and

WHEREAS, The digital media environment presents valuable opportunities for
participation in civic life by sectors of the City marginalized in the largely consolidated “old
media” (radio, TV, daily newspapers); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urges the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services to analyze and report
to the Board on the following:

1) the number and type of communications providers that might potentially be
interested in leasing facilities from a City-owned high-speed communications system,
including Fiber to the Home/Business as well as other options, and the terms and conditions
under which leasing City-owned facilities would be feasible;

2) other local governments that have installed high-speed communications
systems, the types of services offered over such systems, the method of financing such
systems, and the number and type of subscribers to the services offered;

3) feasibility of the City providing services directly, as well as leasing facilities to
independent providers;

4) mechanisms to promote community participation in a City-owned high-speed
communications system;

5) the amount, location and type of high-speed communications facilities currently
owned by and installed in the City;

6) projected demand by individuals or businesses in the City for various types of
communications services during the next five years;
7) a proposed plan for a City-owned high-speed communications system, including recommendations for the types of facilities and the amount of bandwidth the City should install, and the timing and placement of such facilities;

8) potential costs of installing and maintaining a City-owned high-speed communications system, and potential financing mechanisms that do not rely on the general fund;

9) alternative or additional methods of installing a City-owned high-speed communications system, such as aerial placement of facilities, placement with other utility facilities, and use of existing City-owned conduit; and

10) the public benefits that could be negotiated through lease agreements with communications service providers, including financing for expanded community media production and distribution; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to analyze and report on the location and timing of all sewers that are expected to be replaced or upgraded, and the costs and benefits of coordinating such work with installation of City-owned high-speed communications facilities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Department of Public Works to analyze and report to the Board on the costs and benefits of a City-owned high-speed communications system with respect to its impact on construction and excavation activities and the impact on the life of City streets; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the Mayor’s Office of Public Finance to develop models for financing a City-owned high-speed communications system.
Resolution urging the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services, the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Public Works, and the Mayor's Office of Public Finance to evaluate the costs, benefits, and technical issues associated with installing broadband facilities when the City and County of San Francisco conducts its planned rebuild of its sewer system, to enable the City and County of San Francisco to increase the availability of bandwidth for telecommunications, cable, and information services.

October 5, 2004  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 5, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date: October 14, 2004

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.

Clerk of the Board

File No.
041184