FILE NO. 041702

RESOLUTION NO. 775-04

[United Church of Christ Ad]

Resolution urging CBS and NBC to rescind their decisions to reject airing of the United Church of Christ advertisement promoting tolerance and acceptance of same-sex couples.

WHEREAS, CBS and NBC have declined to air a United Church of Christ (UCC) television advertisement that states the UCC's welcoming and acceptance of same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, according to a UCC statement, the ad states that the church seeks to welcome all people, regardless of ability, age, race, economic circumstance or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, CBS and NBC rejected airing the TV ad based on a company policy of not accepting advocacy ads, and issue-oriented ads on issues that are publicly controversial; and

WHEREAS, CBS stated that, "Because this commercial touches on the exclusion of gay couples...and the fact the executive branch has recently proposed a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, this spot is unacceptable for broadcast"; and

WHEREAS, CBS and NBC are mistaken in their belief that the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government has spoken against same-sex couples; instead, the Administration has spoken in favor of rights and benefits for same-sex couples while seeking to limit their marriage rights; and

WHEREAS, the UCC ad does not promote marriage rights for same-sex couples and therefore is not in conflict with the Executive Branch; therefore, be it

Supervisor Ammiano, Durf44 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, the UCC ad promotes equality and acceptance for all people, values which are not controversial in the United States; and

WHEREAS, both CBS and NBC accepted and aired a different ad also produced by United Church of Christ which depicts a young girl opening her hands in the shape of a steeple to symbolize a gesture of welcome; and

WHEREAS, in contrast, the UCC television ad has been accepted and will air on other networks including ABC Family, AMC, BET, Discovery, Fox, Hallmark, History, <u>Nick@Nite</u>, TBS, TNT, Travel and TV Land; and

WHEREAS, CBS and NBC's refusal to air one type of ad which depicts acceptance of gay people has been criticized by many gay rights advocacy organizations, human rights group and religious organizations including United Church of Christ, Metropolitan Community Center, and the First Congregational Church; and

WHEREAS, homophobia by institutions such as some churches and media leads to acts of discrimination and violence; and

WHEREAS, the UCC ad promotes tolerance which can lead to a reduction in acts of discrimination and violence; and

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board Supervisors urges CBS and NBC to rescind their decisions to reject airing of the United Church of Christ advertisement promoting tolerance and acceptance of same-sex couples; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges CBS and NBC to use advertising and programming opportunities to promote tolerance and to speak against discrimination and hate-based violence; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to send copies of this resolution to the local office affiliates of CBS and NBC.

Supervisor Ammiano BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 041702

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Date Passed:

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December 14, 2004 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval Excused: 1 - Alioto-Pier File No. 041702

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on December 14, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: December 24, 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. 041702