Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Fire Department to retroactively accept and expend a grant in the amount of $297,030 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop and implement an Advanced Driver Training Program for its uniformed employees.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) uniformed employees respond to approximately 100,000 incidents per year; and,

WHEREAS, Responding in a timely and safe manner is critical to saving lives and minimizing property loss; and,

WHEREAS, The SFFD uniformed employees provide service for approximately 798,680 San Francisco residents within a response area of 47.5 miles, where the registered vehicle density was 9,914 vehicles per square mile in 2006. The population grows to roughly 1.2 million people on weekdays, bringing approximately 35,400 additional vehicles onto City streets; and,

WHEREAS, On any given day SFFD apparatus, consisting of 42 engine companies, 19 truck companies, 26 ambulances, two rescue squads and specialized units for Hazmat, Special Operations and Cliff/Surf Rescue, can travel along 1,088 miles of roadway including one-way streets, dead ends, narrow alleyways and streets with an incline as great as 31.5%. There are approximately 7,200 intersections within the SFFD's response area, with only 1,148 of those intersections having signals; and,

WHEREAS, As a result of the City's challenging topography, dense population, and automobile, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, the SFFD has experienced financial losses due to
accidents involving responding emergency vehicles, as well as employee lost time and direct medical costs; and,

WHEREAS, The SFFD offers a 40-hour Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) for its newly hired uniformed personnel during the recruit-training program, but has not been able to provide any routine, on-going driver training, competency testing or defensive driver training for employees who have passed probation; and,

WHEREAS, The SFFD applied for and was awarded a FEMA grant in the amount of $297,030 to develop and implement an Advanced Driver Training Program using a driving simulator. The SFFD believes such a Training Program will complement and enhance hands-on vehicle operation by providing simulated but realistic fire and EMS driving experiences and training for appropriate driver reactions to potentially dangerous traffic situations and roadway conditions, and that the training will increase the interoperability of all responding units and provide for better control of intersections during Code 3 calls; and,

WHEREAS, The grant requires the City to provide matching funds of 20 percent, or $74,257, and the SFFD has identified those funds in its current budget; and,

WHEREAS, The grant requires to the City to expend the grant funds by no later than November 25, 2009, unless the SFFD applies for and FEMA approves an extension of the grant period; and,

WHEREAS, The SFFD proposes to maximize the use of the grant funds on program expenditures by not including indirect costs in the grant budget; and,

WHEREAS, The grant does not require any amendment to the Annual Salary Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, The Fire Commission recommended approval of this grant at its meeting on January 22, 2009; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the SFFD to retroactively accept and expend grant funds in the amount of $297,030 from FEMA; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds received must be expended no later than November 25, 2009, unless an extension is granted by FEMA; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby waives inclusion of indirect costs in the grant budget; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief of the San Francisco Fire Department is hereby authorized and empowered to execute, deliver, and perform, in the name of the City and County of San Francisco, all applications, contracts, agreements, amendments, and payment requests necessary to secure the FEMA grant funds and implement the purposes specified in the grant application.

Recommended:

Joanne M. Hayes-White
Chief of Department

Approved:

Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Benjamin Rosenfield
Controller
Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Fire Department to retroactively accept and expend a grant in the amount of $297,030 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop and implement an Advanced Driver Training Program for its uniformed employees.

March 31, 2009  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell, Mirkarimi

File No. 090198  I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 31, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

4/8/09  Date Approved

Angela Cabillo  Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom