Resolution Calling for the Recognition of Legally Married Same-Sex Couples in the 2010 Census and for Federal Agencies to Include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals in all federal surveys and data collection.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau is required by the Constitution of the United States of America to conduct a count of the entire population every ten years; and,

WHEREAS, The Census is used to decide funding, representation and services to communities, including more than $300 billion per year in federal and state funding allocated to local communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and municipal importance based on census data, including immigration, healthcare, community development, housing, education, transportation, social services, employment, environment, and much more; and,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau faces the daunting challenge of cost-effectively counting a growing, more diverse and increasingly hard-to-find population that is reluctant to participate in the decennial census; and,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau's stated mission, is to serve as “the leading source of quality data about the nation's people”; and,

WHEREAS, The federal government does not collect and maintain accurate and complete data on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals and the 2010 Census questionnaire does not include questions about same-sex relationships to heads of household; and,
WHEREAS, The 2010 Census will fail to recognize legal same-sex marriages
performed in and/or recognized by a growing number of states, including Massachusetts,
Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, California, and Maine; and,
WHEREAS, Approximately 18,000 same-sex couples were married in California and
San Francisco issued 3,773 marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2008; and,
WHEREAS, Responses by legal same-sex spouses who truthfully check the husband
or wife category in response to questions about the relationship to their head of household will
be changed and reported as "unmarried partners" in all census tabulations; and,
WHEREAS, Data on families and households, published by the U.S. Census Bureau
will erroneously consider and list children of legally married same-sex couples as part of a
single-parent household; and,
WHEREAS, The use of incorrect population data by federal agencies will unfairly deny
community services and programs to law-abiding, tax-paying individuals who help fund such
programs; and,
WHEREAS, An accurate count of married same-sex couples is necessary to estimate
tax revenues once same-sex unions are recognized by the federal government; and,
WHEREAS, The Census Bureau can properly interpret the law to include and maintain
statistics on same-sex married couples and families; and,
WHEREAS, Denying same-sex married couples the right to be included in statistical
surveys and census data is discriminatory and deprives them of hard-fought legal recognition
and access to services that meet their social, physical and economic needs; and,
WHEREAS, It has never been more critical to accurately include every San Francisco
resident in the 2010 Census, particularly from communities or populations that have been
historically undercounted; and,
WHEREAS, San Francisco has a large population of same-sex households and same-
sex married couples with children, as well as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
Individuals who have significantly contributed in countless ways to the success of the City;
and,
WHEREAS, There are over 12,463 children living with same-sex parents in
San Francisco; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges Congress, the
Secretary of Commerce and the federal government to immediately recognize legally married
same-sex couples, change the questions on the 2010 census questionnaire to allow
respondents to reflect this relationship, and to begin counting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
Transgender Individuals in other federal surveys and data reports; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls for the
Current Population Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation to be adapted
to recognize Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals in order to help federal and
other government agencies make informed and appropriate policy decisions.
Resolution calling for the recognition of legally married same-sex couples in the 2010 Census and for federal agencies to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in all federal surveys and data collection.

May 19, 2009  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 9 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell, Mirkarimi
Absent: 2 - Alioto-Pier, Daly

File No. 090594

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on May 19, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Date Approved

5/28/09

Mayor Gavin Newsom