[Supporting the Promotion and Deployment of Broadband Internet Access in California and San Francisco]

Resolution joining with 31 California counties in supporting the work of the California Emerging Technology Fund's Get Connected! public awareness program; embracing the California Emerging Technology Fund's goal to achieve broadband Internet access at home for 80% of all Californians by 2015; embracing a goal to achieve broadband Internet access for 90% of San Franciscans by 2015, with a focus on connecting seniors and low income households; requesting that the Department of Technology report back on strategic actions planned that will remove barriers to and promote the deployment and adoption of broadband.

WHEREAS, Closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in the City and County of San Francisco and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, High-speed Internet access—referred to generically as "broadband" and including both wireline and wireless technologies—is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy; and

WHEREAS, California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of broadband and other information technologies; however California's adoption and use of broadband technology is only approximately equivalent to the national average; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, 30% of all Californians, 51% of low-income households, 50% of Latino families, 45% of people with disabilities are not connected to the Internet with broadband, leaving more than 10 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at home; San Francisco faces digital inclusion challenges that mirror with only 42% of seniors and 41% of low income households having broadband Internet access at home; and

Supervisor Chiu
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to helping families and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient, and realizes that the use of broadband can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to helping students obtain the highest-quality education incorporating digital literacy, and also understands that high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and recognizes that broadband is a strategic “green” technology that decreases greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on foreign oil by enabling e-government and the provision of more services online; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is committed to Digital Inclusion and increasing citizen participation in the public process through expanded engagement using broadband; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has the opportunity to impact broadband deployment and adoption in its several local government roles and responsibilities, including as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider; and

WHEREAS, The California Emerging Technology Fund has launched Get Connected!, a public awareness program with a goal to close the Digital Divide in California; and

WHEREAS, the Get Connected! program will complement and enhance the effectiveness of the San Francisco’s digital inclusion efforts which seek to improve broadband access among seniors, adults with disabilities as well as providing neighborhood-based digital media training to underserved residents; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco hereby joins with 31 California counties in supporting the work of the California Emerging Technology Fund's Get Connected! program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors embraces the California Emerging Technology Fund's goal to achieve broadband Internet access at home for 80% of all Californians statewide by 2015 and embraces a goal to achieve broadband Internet access for 90% of San Franciscans by 2015, with a focus on connecting seniors and low income households; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests that the Department of Technology report back to the Board of Supervisors within six months of the passage of this resolution on strategic actions planned that will remove barriers to and promote the deployment and adoption of broadband.
Resolution joining with 31 California counties in supporting the work of the California Emerging Technology Fund's Get Connected! public awareness program; embracing the California Emerging Technology Fund's goal to achieve broadband Internet access at home for 80% of all Californians by 2015; embracing a goal to achieve broadband Internet access for 90% of San Franciscans by 2015, with a focus on connecting seniors and low income households; requesting that the Department of Technology report back on strategic actions planned that will remove barriers and promote the deployment and adoption of broadband.

November 16, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Duffy, Elsbernd, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

Absent: 2 - Campos and Mar

File No. 101401

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 11/16/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Savannah Newsom

Date Approved

November 18, 2010