Resolution supporting the preservation of the historic Marcus Books-Jimbo's Bop City building on Fillmore Street and urging its current owners to sell it to an owner who will uphold the building's community serving purposes.

WHEREAS, Marcus Books and the Marcus Books-Jimbo's Bop City building (Building) built in 1893 and now located at 1712-16 Fillmore Street in San Francisco are important cultural and historical resources; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Books, founded by Drs. Julian and Raye Richardson in 1960, is the oldest Black-owned and Black-themed bookstore in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Books has been and continues to be a center for Black intellectualism, empowerment and activism, and a meeting place for community activists and organizations including: Westside Community Services, the Fillmore Community Development Association, the Black Panthers, and the 1968 African-American strikers at San Francisco State College (now University); and

WHEREAS, Over the years Marcus Books has hosted thousands of notable writers and other personalities, including Rosa Parks, James Baldwin, Eldridge Cleaver, Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, and Oprah Winfrey, and has been a resource for community members, scholars, and political activists; and

WHEREAS, from 1950-1965, the Building, then located at 1690 Post Street, was the home of Jimbo's Bop City, a world-renowned jazz club whose after-hours jam sessions attracted stellar musicians such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, and welcomed women and people of all races under its roof and on its stage; and
WHEREAS, Jimbo’s Bop City was integral to establishing the reputation and identity of the Fillmore as the “Harlem of the West” and promoting both traditional performers and those pioneering the emerging “bop” sound; and

WHEREAS, the Marcus Books-Jimbo’s Bop City building is one of the few Victorian buildings to survive the devastation wrought by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency upon the Fillmore and Japantown communities, and was saved from destruction through the efforts of many San Franciscans, including members of the African American and Japanese American communities and the pioneers of the City’s historic preservation movement, by being lifted from its foundation, placed on a truck and physically moved from Post Street in the heart of Japantown to its present site on Fillmore Street; and

WHEREAS, in light of its past and present history and use, the Marcus Books-Jimbo’s Bop City building is an important historical and cultural resource for Japantown and the Western Addition and to all residents and visitors of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Marcus Books-Jimbo’s Bop City building is a symbol of and witness to the struggles of the communities of the Western Addition and holds special significance for the African American and Japanese American communities because of the notable businesses, persons, and events associated with the Building, and its continued survival as living part of these communities; and

WHEREAS, the Marcus Books-Jimbo’s Bop City building is located within a significant commercial neighborhood under the jurisdiction of the pending Fillmore Neighborhood Commercial District and the existing Japantown Special Use District; and

WHEREAS, Nishan and Suhaila Sweis, real estate investors, have demanded $3.2 million for the Building which they purchased for $1.59 million at a foreclosure sale in April 2013; and

Supervisors Breed; Cohen, Campos, Kim, Chiu, Farrell, Avalos, Mar
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, Westside Community Services, a non-profit organization that uses the
Marcus Books-Jimbo's Bop City building to serve its clients, is sincerely attempting to
purchase the property to assure that it is preserved and continues to be accessible to the
communities it has historically served; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that in light of the historical, cultural and social importance of the Marcus
Books-Jimbo's Bop City building, the Board of Supervisors directs all City agencies dealing
with issues related to the Building give substantial weight to community concerns, issues and
needs; and apply careful scrutiny and deliberation on any matter, especially with regard to use
or alterations, affecting the Building; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Sweis family
to enter into meaningful negotiations with representatives of the Mayor's office or other body
dedicated to assuring the Building's community serving purposes, in order to sell the Marcus
Books-Jimbo's Bop City building to an owner who will assure that it will be preserved and
perpetuated for the benefit of all San Franciscans and all those whose lives have been
touched by the cultural, historical, and social legacy of the Marcus Books-Jimbos' Bop City
building.
Resolution supporting the preservation of the historic Marcus Books-Jimbo's Bop building on Fillmore Street and urging its current owners to sell it to an owner who will uphold the building's community serving purposes.

July 30, 2013 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was RECEIVED AND ASSIGNED on 7/30/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date: August 7, 2013

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, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board