[Opposing Anti-Abortion Banners on Market Street]

Resolution opposing the anti-abortion banners on Market Street, urging the dedication of banner proceeds to the Department of Public Health for a campaign advancing accurate and scientifically verifiable education about women's reproductive health, and requesting the review of banner regulations to assess whether the banners were issued in violation of City law.

WHEREAS, Banners falsely claiming that "Abortion hurts women" are hanging from the City's publicly managed lamp posts on Market Street in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States and the risk of death is 12 times higher for carrying a pregnancy to term, compared with abortion, according to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and

WHEREAS, Many women routinely lost their lives from illegal abortions before the landmark Supreme Court Case, Roe v. Wade, legalized abortion in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Today, deaths from abortion have all but disappeared; and

WHEREAS, One in three American women will have an abortion by age 45 and 95% of heterosexually active couples have used birth control; and

WHEREAS, Denied abortion care perpetuates poverty, and women with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level are already five times more likely to have unintended pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, Access to legal and affordable family planning health care services has been integral to expanding opportunities for success and satisfaction by women and girls in the emotional, economic, educational and professional spheres, as well as for the men and children in their lives and for communities as a whole; and

Supervisors Campos, Yee, Farrell, Wiener, Chiu, Kim, Mar, Cohen
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, Recent campaigns to restrict abortion rights have increased sharply since 2011, comprising local, state and federal legislation facilitating access to reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, We are proud that San Francisco and California have strong policies to assure women's reproductive health rights, which include ready access to affordable and legal family planning services, including abortion care; and

WHEREAS, The prominent display of false anti-abortion statements on public property on Market Street misrepresents the City's support for reproductive health, rights, and justice, undermines women's personal and private medical decisions, and thereby undermines public health; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee co-sponsored a resolution approved by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2012 affirming the importance of women's reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, In January 2013, the City and County of San Francisco commemorated the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and commended the work of pro-choice advocates and service providers in the City; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors fully supports the first amendment right to un-abridged freedom of speech but opposes the anti-abortion messages on the banners hanging on Market Street and does not support the views of the rally to be held by anti-abortion groups in San Francisco on January 25, 2014; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges review of the City's permitting process of the banners as the banners appear to violate City regulations in several respects, including failure to fit a category of permissible banners, failure to display an accurate date for a related event, and failure to avoid lamp posts that also display holiday snowflakes; and be it,
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City devote all proceeds from the anti-abortion banners to a Department of Public Health campaign to educate vulnerable populations regarding accurate and scientifically verifiable information about reproductive health and rights, including accurate information about the safety of abortions.
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January 28, 2014 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 ADOPTED on 1/28/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor

Date Approved

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