Resolution urging Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to uphold net neutrality and Title II protections.

WHEREAS, In February 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve the "Open Internet Order," which established net neutrality protections and reclassified Internet service as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act; and

WHEREAS, Net Neutrality is the concept that Internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data that flows over their networks fairly and without improper discrimination that may favor certain applications, sites, services, or content; and

WHEREAS, The "Open Internet Order" established that ISPs should be treated as common carriers, and as such, regulated like other public utilities providing essential public services; and

WHEREAS, The "Open Internet Order" aims to keep the Internet truly fair and open by requiring ISPs and their networks be a neutral gateway instead of handling different types of Internet traffic in different ways and at different costs; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco's communities increasingly rely on fair and open broadband connectivity for economic growth, community development, improving education and employment opportunities, accessing information, government services, and numerous other examples; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday December 14, 2017, the FCC voted the "Restoring Internet Freedom Draft Order" into law which repeated current net neutrality protections, declassified Internet service as a telecommunication service and seeks to codify the unprecedented step
of banning cities and states from imposing local rules to protect their residents in the aftermath of repeal with their own net neutrality protections; and

WHEREAS, More than 23 million comments have been filed at the FCC in response to its proposal to eliminate net neutrality, with over 98% of the comments in support of keeping the current net neutrality protections in place; and

WHEREAS, Public opinion polls show that 76% of Americans, 81% of Democrats, 73% of Republicans support the current net neutrality protections; and

WHEREAS, The “Restoring Internet Freedom Draft Order” now allows ISPs to; block certain sites, content, or applications, throttle certain sites, content, or applications, and create ‘paid prioritization’ “fast lanes” for certain commercial partners while; and

WHEREAS, The “Restoring Internet Freedom Draft Order” allows ISPs to self-regulate and ask consumers and businesses to trust that their ISPs are not engaging in anti-consumer behavior; and

WHEREAS, Repealing net neutrality protection will have particularly negative consequences for middle-class and low-income San Franciscans, small businesses, entrepreneurs, start-ups, non-profits, and those who cannot afford to pay more for accessing and using data an content on the Internet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly support the “Open Internet Order,” which established current net neutrality and Title II protections and regulations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly urges that Congress, the Courts, and the FCC reconsider and disapprove the “Restoring Internet Freedom Draft Order” because it is not in the best interest of San Francisco’s diverse communities, businesses, and non-profits; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all ISPs who serve San Francisco residents to make public, legally enforceable commitments not to block access by its customers, and not to prioritize Internet traffic or create paid fast lanes.
Resolution urging Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to uphold net neutrality and Title II protections.

January 23, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/23/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mark E. Farrell
Mayor