[Commitment to Monitor and Defend the Confidentiality of the 2020 Census Data Collection Efforts]

Resolution affirming the City and County of San Francisco’s commitment to monitor 2020 Census data collection efforts for breaches of confidentiality and to defend the privacy of 2020 Census respondents against the possibility of such breaches.

WHEREAS, For more than 200 years, the United States Constitution has required an enumeration of all persons residing in the United States every ten years; and

WHEREAS, The decennial Census required by the Constitution can only succeed if all households participate by accurately completing the census questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, Results from the 2020 Census help direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, hospitals, and other public services; and

WHEREAS, Census responses will also be used to determine the number of seats California receives in Congress and the political representation of San Francisco residents at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, In 21st century America, households must be confident that information provided to the Census Bureau as part of the Census is confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than producing anonymous statistics; and

WHEREAS, Census respondents must be assured that the Census Bureau will not share any data pertaining to a specific individual or household with any other government agency, court of law, or private entity for any purpose, or release any data that could undermine the confidentiality of personal information; and

WHEREAS, Federal law under Title 13 of the U.S. Code aims to protect Census data confidentiality by making it illegal for the Census Bureau to disclose census responses to other government agencies or in any way that would personally identify a respondent; and
WHEREAS, Nonetheless, high levels of distrust in government reduces confidence among members of the public that federal law can guarantee the confidentiality of census data; and

WHEREAS, Trust in the federal government under the current administration is at an extreme low, especially among communities of color, and many people are fearful that their responses to the 2020 Census might be used against them or their families for immigration or law enforcement purposes; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to many hard-to-count communities that have been historically underrepresented in previous census efforts, including households who are low-income, who are immigrant, who are renters, or who have limited-English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, It is important to bolster confidence in census data protection in order to facilitate a successful 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco believes that protection of census data confidentiality is essential to a successful Census and to a healthy and thriving democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms the City and County of San Francisco’s commitment to closely monitor and defend against any breach of census data confidentiality during the 2020 Census; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will coordinate with the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, the City Attorney’s office, and other interested city departments to leverage their collective influence to prevent or bring to an end any breach of the guarantee of confidentiality for data collected as a part of the 2020 Census; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will continue to emphasize the importance of census safety and security throughout the duration of the 2020 Census; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors affirms its commitment to use transparency, publicity, investigation, or litigation to challenge any breach or threatened breach so that all San Franciscans can remain assured that personally identifiable census data will not be misused and will remain confidential.
Resolution affirming the City and County of San Francisco's commitment to monitor 2020 Census data collection efforts for breaches of confidentiality and to defend the privacy of 2020 Census respondents against the possibility of such breaches.

February 25, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 8 - Fewer, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Safai, Stefani and Yee
Absent: 3 - Haney, Ronen and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/25/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

3/6/2020
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 her 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