Resolution condemning the naming of the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center after Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg and urging City departments to establish clear standards with regards to naming rights for public institutions and properties that reflect San Francisco's values and a commitment to affirming and upholding human rights, dignity, and social and racial justice.

WHEREAS, The Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (the "Hospital"), formerly the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, is a public hospital operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, The Hospital is a safety net and community hospital, located in the Mission, serving more than 100,000 vulnerable San Franciscans a year; and

WHEREAS, On March 3rd, 2015 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 57-15, authorizing the Department of Public Health to accept and expend a $57,375,000 gift from the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation and approved a Gift Agreement with the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation by which Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg granted $75,000,000 to the Foundation, $32,375,000 of which was designated for the procurement of furniture, fixtures, equipment, information technology and related services for San Francisco General Hospital’s new acute care and trauma building, which was to be named the Priscilla and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center; on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 150158, which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and
WHEREAS, The Gift is being distributed through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation ("SVCF"), in installments, from an advised fund controlled by Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan (collectively, the “Donors”); and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Donors gave SVCF its largest gift to date, donating Facebook stock worth nearly $1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Donor advised funds, such as those used by SVCF and the Donors, have been criticized for functioning as tax shelters to offset capital gains taxes from appreciating stock values following events like initial public offerings ("IPO"); and

WHEREAS, The Donors’ initial contribution to the SVCF closely coincided with Facebook’s IPO, likely saving the Donors tens of millions of dollars in capital gains taxes; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco should discourage, not publicly reward, tax evasion; and

WHEREAS, In November 2008 during the beginning of the Great Recession and before Mark Zuckerberg purchased his home in San Francisco, the voters of San Francisco authorized the sale of $887,400,000 in a bond measure for the construction of a seismically sound acute hospital; and

WHEREAS, Another bond measure was authorized in June of 2016 for an additional $222,000,000 for the retrofit of older facilities at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Through the bond measures, San Francisco residents have therefore paid approximately 90% of the $1.244 billion construction and furnishing costs for the hospital; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health is responsible for safeguarding hospital patients’ privacy and right to informed consent for both care and research; and

WHEREAS, Mark Zuckerberg is co-founder, chairman, chief executive officer, and controlling shareholder of Facebook, the largest social media company in the world; and
WHEREAS, Facebook engaged in unauthorized research on 689,003 of its users without their knowledge or consent to see if emotions could be transmitted like a contagious disease; and

WHEREAS, Facebook sought U.S. hospital data for further research as late as 2018 without ethical review or informed consent; and

WHEREAS, Facebook has been unable to protect its users from major privacy breaches such as when Facebook allowed Cambridge Analytica to harvest data from the personal profiles of some 87 million people worldwide without their consent, and when a 2018 attack on Facebook’s computer network exposed the personal information of nearly 50 million users; and

WHEREAS, In July 2019, the Federal Trade Commission fined Facebook $5 billion, by far the largest penalty ever imposed on a company for violating consumers' privacy rights; and

WHEREAS, Facebook has allowed paid advertisements making false claims about the risks of proven AIDS prevention medication while simultaneously preventing advertisements promoting these public health tools; and

WHEREAS, In September 2019 Facebook removed a fact-checking disclaimer from a medically inaccurate video from an anti-abortion organization, which remains up; and

WHEREAS, In October 2019 Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the company would allow politicians and political parties to openly lie in their advertisements, meaning that Facebook holds paid political advertisements to a lower standard than all others, which prompted a public outcry from Facebook employees; and

WHEREAS, According to Facebook’s own internal audit, the Facebook platform in Myanmar was used by bad actors to spread hate speech, incite violence, and coordinate harm, and posts on Facebook were linked to offline violence; and
WHEREAS, In India, according to a study by Equality Labs, hate speech targeting
Indian caste, religious, gender, and queer minorities is rampant across Facebook; and
WHEREAS, Facebook’s refusal to address long-standing concerns about its policies
that have allowed hate, lies, racism, and disinformation on its platform has provoked more
than 1,000 companies to boycott advertising on Facebook in July 2020 as part of the Stop
Hate for Profit campaign; and
WHEREAS, According to a study by Pro Publica, despite pledges to root out
misinformation about coronavirus and COVID-19 millions of Facebook users are still being put
at risk of consuming harmful misinformation about coronavirus at a large scale, and Facebook
is rife with false or misleading claims about voting, particularly regarding voting by mail, which
is the safest way of casting a ballot during the coronavirus pandemic; and
WHEREAS, According to an August 2020 study by Avaaz, during the last year, content
from the top 10 websites spreading health misinformation had almost four times as many
estimated views on Facebook as equivalent content from the websites of 10 leading health
institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC); and
WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the International Center for Journalists and
Columbia University’s Tow Center Journalism of reporters covering the COVID-19 pandemic
reported that the Facebook platform was the largest impediment to delivering accurate stories
about the virus, and that efforts to reach out to the platform to stem the tide of lies were
usually unsuccessful; and
WHEREAS, In May 2020, Facebook refused to take down posts by President Trump
that incited hatred and violence against African Americans and facilitated voter suppression,
despite the fact that these posts violated the company’s own community standards policies,
which prompted Facebook employees to stage a virtual walkout; and
WHEREAS, In July 2020, Facebook released a civil rights audit it had commissioned,
which found that “the company make painful decisions over the last nine months with real
world consequences that are serious setbacks for civil rights” and that “Facebook has made
policy and enforcement choices that leave our election exposed to interference by the
President and others who seek to use misinformation to sow confusion and suppress voting”;
now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemns the naming of
the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center after Priscilla Chan and Mark
Zuckerberg; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges City
departments to establish clear standards with regards to naming rights for public institutions
and properties that reflect San Francisco’s values and a commitment to affirming and
upholding human rights, dignity, and social and racial justice.
Resolution condemning the naming of the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center after Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg and urging City departments to establish clear standards with regards to naming rights for public institutions and properties that reflect San Francisco's values and a commitment to affirming and upholding human rights, dignity, and social and racial justice.

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton
Noes: 1 - Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

12/23/2020

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  
12/23/2020  
Date

File No.  
200790