

1 [Battery Recycling Program]

2

3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to request that City**
4 **departments purchase and use only rechargeable batteries and urging the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco to increase battery recycling.**

6

7 WHEREAS, the Sustainability of the City and County of San Francisco establishes the
8 goal of minimizing risks to human health and the environment by striving to eliminate
9 hazardous materials and hazardous waste; and,

10 WHEREAS, batteries containing cadmium, mercury, silver, lead, cobalt, nickel, zinc or
11 other heavy metals may be toxic, hazardous materials or hazardous waste; and,

12 WHEREAS, possible health effects associated with ingestion or inhalation of water,
13 food, or air that has been contaminated with high levels of cadmium, mercury, and other
14 heavy metals range from headaches and abdominal discomfort to seizures, cancer, comas,
15 and even death; and,

16 WHEREAS, cadmium is an acutely toxic metal and a known carcinogen that has been
17 shown to have the following toxicological effects: lung, liver, and kidney damage, fragile
18 bones, anemia, and decrease in male fertility; and,

19 WHEREAS, one pre-1996 mercury battery in six tons of trash exceeds the federal
20 government's allowable limit for mercury in solid waste; and,

21 WHEREAS, most batteries are discarded with ordinary municipal solid waste rather
22 than recycled or treated as hazardous waste; and,

23 WHEREAS, in landfills, heavy metals in batteries have the potential to leach into soil,
24 ground water, and surface water; and,

25

1 WHEREAS, emissions from municipal solid waste incineration are a major source of
2 both air and water pollution, leading to bioaccumulation of mercury and cadmium in the food
3 chain; and,

4 WHEREAS, batteries mixed with municipal solid waste have the potential to explode,
5 cause fires, or harm workers when processed; and,

6 WHEREAS, the goal of the federal Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery
7 Management Act of 1996 (Battery Act) is to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and
8 encourage increased recycling of used nickel-cadmium batteries (Ni-Cd), small sealed lead-
9 acid batteries (SSLA), and certain other batteries by making battery recycling efficient and
10 cost-effective; and,

11 WHEREAS, small, round "button cell" batteries are allowed to contain up to 25mg
12 mercury under the Battery Act, and may also contain silver, cadmium, or other heavy metals;
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant number of batteries containing mercury that
15 were manufactured prior to passage of the Battery Act have yet to be disposed; and,

16 WHEREAS, Ni-CD rechargeable batteries were estimated to contribute approximately
17 54 percent of the cadmium found in municipal solid waste in 1998; and,

18 WHEREAS, a rechargeable battery that can be charged up to 1,000 times can
19 substitute for hundreds of single-use batteries over its useful life; and,

20 WHEREAS, US EPA reported in 1997 that 80 percent of rechargeable batteries were
21 composed of nickel and cadmium; and,

22 WHEREAS, both rechargeable Ni-MH and rechargeable alkaline batteries are available
23 in standard sizes, which make them appropriate for most battery-powered consumer devices,
24 such as pagers, flashlights, cameras, personal stereos, etc.; and,

25

1 WHEREAS; several states including Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode
2 Island, and Vermont have required manufacturers and marketers of rechargeable batteries
3 and rechargeable battery-powered products to implement programs to inform consumers of
4 disposal laws for rechargeable batteries: ensure batteries and battery-powered products are
5 labeled to show electrolyte and disposal options; and properly collect, transport, and recycle
6 or dispose of the batteries and products; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
8 urges that any City department seeking to purchase batteries shall request in the
9 specifications for procurement of batteries, that bidders offer rechargeable batteries, with
10 preference given to rechargeable alkaline batteries and rechargeable nickel metal hydride
11 batteries over Ni-CDs, to the maximum extent possible within the performance standards
12 required by the contract; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco urges that any City department requesting purchase of nonrechargeable batteries
15 shall set forth the performance standards required to be met necessitating the purchase of
16 nonrechargeable battery or battery-powered product, and shall certify that rechargeable
17 batteries or products powered by rechargeable batteries are unavailable to meet the contract
18 requirements; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco urges that any City department requesting purchase of Ni-Cd rechargeable
21 batteries include written justification of preference of rechargeable Ni-Cd chemistry over
22 rechargeable alkaline or rechargeable Ni-MH; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
24 Francisco requests that any rechargeable batteries purchased by the City and County of San
25 Francisco be delivered accompanied by detailed recycling instructions and any batteries

1 containing cadmium, mercury or lead include a written explanation of the toxic hazards of
2 these substances in the waste stream; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
4 Francisco urges that City departments buying products that include or incorporate
5 rechargeable battery packs, give preference to products that include or incorporate
6 rechargeable battery packs, give purchasing preference to products that include or
7 incorporate rechargeable NI-MH batteries over NI-Cd batteries; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
9 Francisco urges City departments buying batteries or products that include or incorporate
10 batteries, give preference to vendors that offer to take spent batteries back and recycle them;
11 and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
13 Francisco urges City departments, buying products that include or incorporate batteries, give
14 preference to products in which the batteries are easily removable with standard tools: and,
15 be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
17 Francisco urges City departments, buying battery chargers, purchase chargers that recharge
18 Ni-MH batteries as well as NI-Cd batteries; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco urges manufacturers and marketers of batteries and battery powered products sold
21 in San Francisco to work with the Solid Waste Management Program to: 1) develop and
22 implement a program to inform City and County residents, businesses, and City departments
23 about recycling and proper disposal of batteries; 2) ensure batteries and products are labeled
24 to show battery chemistry and recycling and proper disposal options; 3) properly collect,
25

1 transport, and recycle the batteries and products they sell; and 4) include rechargeable
2 alkaline batteries in their recycling schemes; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Francisco
4 urges the State of California to consider legislation that would institute a deposit system for
5 nonrechargeable batteries and NI-Cd rechargeable batteries and ban Ni-Cd and Ni-MH
6 batteries from disposal in solid waste landfill and incinerators; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City County of San
8 Francisco urges the Solid Waste Management Program to work with the Department of Public
9 Health and battery manufacturers and recyclers to develop a plan and budget for an
10 expanded, affordable battery recycling program for City departments, including funding of
11 battery collection, transportation, and recycling by battery manufacturers; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County urges all
13 City departments to participate in the City's battery recycling program; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
15 Francisco urges the Solid Waste Management Program to report annually to the Commission
16 on the Environment on the types and amounts of batteries purchased, collected from and
17 recycled by City departments, make recommendations to the Commission on the Environment
18 on actions that the City could take regarding batteries, and report on the feasibility of
19 "Extended Producer Responsibility" to address problems with batteries throughout San
20 Francisco.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 011250

Date Passed:

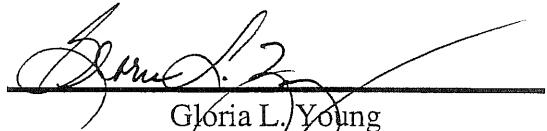
Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to request that City departments purchase and use only rechargeable batteries and urging the City and County of San Francisco to increase battery recycling.

July 9, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 011250

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 9, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

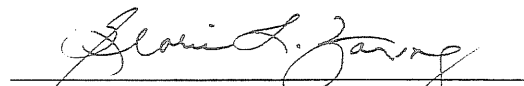

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

Date: 7/20/01

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, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.


Clerk of the Board

File No.
011250