Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to submit to the voters a Charter amendment at the November 8, 2022 election to renew the Library Preservation Fund for twenty-five years.

WHEREAS, On June 7, 1994, the voters of the City and County of San Francisco passed Proposition E, creating the Library Preservation Fund which established a dedicated fund to be used exclusively by the Library Department ("Library") solely to provide library services and materials and to operate library facilities in accordance with Section 16.109 of the Charter for a period of fifteen years; and,

WHEREAS, On November 7, 2007, City voters passed Proposition D, which reauthorized the Library Preservation Fund for an additional fifteen-year period and authorized the City to issue debt for the Library for purposes secured by and/or repaid from the Library Preservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the monies generated by the Library Preservation Fund, the Library has been able to expand its hours, collections and program efforts improving services to all San Francisco communities, and has been able to engage in capital renovation and construction projects throughout the Library system; and,

WHEREAS, The monies generated by the Library Preservation Fund have been instrumental to the expansion of permanent service hours from a level of 801 hours per week in FY 1992-93 to 1,211 hours per week in FY 2007-08 to 1,462 hours per week in FY 2018-19, with all Library locations open seven days per week; and,
WHEREAS, The Library Preservation Fund has been essential to enabling the Library to increase the book and materials budget, provide librarians in every facility, add teen services and early literacy programs, and expand access to free public technology at every Library location, including wireless access and public instruction; and,

WHEREAS, The Library Preservation Fund, as authorized in Proposition D approved in 2007, is set to expire in fiscal year 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, The annual property tax revenue set-aside set forth in the Library Preservation Fund is essential to the Library’s ability to maintain its current levels of hours, services and materials, and to ensure completion of the capital construction and renovation projects planned for the Mission, Chinatown, and Ocean View branch libraries and for such projects in the future; and,

WHEREAS, In consultation with the Office of the Controller and the Mayor’s Office, the Library has developed a proposed ballot measure to reauthorize the Library Preservation Fund for an additional 25 years that is attached hereto; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to submit to the voters on the November 8, 2022 ballot a Charter amendment to renew the Library Preservation Fund for twenty-five years; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to submit to the voters a ballot measure in substantially similar form to the proposed language attached hereto.

Approved April 21, 2022
By a vote of 5-0
AYES: (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Lopez and Bolander)

Margot Shaub – Library Commission Affairs Analyst