Resolution calling upon San Francisco hospitals and retailers to help reduce infant exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA) by discontinuing the sale and distribution of baby bottles containing BPA.

WHEREAS, Bisphenol A (BPA) is one of the highest volume chemicals, produced worldwide, and is used as a key component of polycarbonate plastic; and,

WHEREAS, Biomonitoring studies conducted by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention have established that BPA is present in 93% of Americans six years and older; and,

WHEREAS, BPA is a suspected endocrine disruptor that could potentially damage human health; and,

WHEREAS, Newborns and infants are a population particularly vulnerable to endocrine disrupting effects of BPA; and

WHEREAS, The United States federal government has the authority to regulate BPA but to date has not taken protective action even though an expert panel from the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) expressed some concern that, in infants and children, exposure to BPA causes neural and behavioral effects; and,

WHEREAS, while international scientific bodies have not reached a consensus about the potential harm posed by exposure to BPA, Canada has banned polycarbonate baby bottles and is developing stringent limits for the leaching of BPA from infant formula cans; and,
WHEREAS, In 2003 the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors (San Francisco) adopted the Precautionary Principle as the foundation for its Environment Code, mandating anticipatory action to prevent harm; and is committed to reducing unnecessary risks for its residents; and,

WHEREAS, Due to widespread public concern about the safety of products containing BPA, manufacturers such as Playtex and Nalgene have adopted a precautionary approach and have moved to voluntarily eliminate BPA from their products; and,

WHEREAS, National retailers like Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, and Toys-R-Ups are also supporting such a precautionary approach and are no longer selling products designed for young children that contain BPA; and,

WHEREAS, In 2005 San Francisco adopted the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords which calls on cities to regulate or reduce the use of toxic chemicals used by the city or its residents; and,

WHEREAS, In 2007 San Francisco adopted the Healthy Products Healthy Children Ordinance that banned chemicals called phthalates from being sold in children’s products and emphasized the importance of taking future action to address the issue of BPA; and,

WHEREAS, A recent survey of San Francisco retail stores found that approximately 50 percent of baby bottles offered for sale in those stores contain BPA; and,

WHEREAS, A number of San Francisco hospitals distribute plastic baby bottles to new mothers; and,

WHEREAS, Many alternatives to polycarbonate baby bottles containing BPA exist and are available on the United States market; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon San Francisco hospitals and retailers to help reduce infant exposure to BPA by discontinuing the sale and distribution of baby bottles containing BPA.
Resolution calling upon San Francisco hospitals and retailers to help reduce infant exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA) by discontinuing the sale and distribution of baby bottles containing BPA.

October 28, 2008  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Chu, Daly, Duffy, Elsbernd, Maxwell, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Absent: 2 - Ammiano, McGoldrick

File No. 081348

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 28, 2008 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Galvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

11/7/2008

Mayor Gavin Newsom