I, Steven Hill, declare as follows:

1. I am a Senior Analyst for the Center for Voting and Democracy (“CVD”), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. CVD is dedicated to fair elections where every vote counts and all voters are represented. As a catalyst for reform, CVD conducts research, analysis, education and advocacy to build understanding of and support for more democratic electoral methods. CVD
promotes full representation as an alternative to winner-take-all elections and instant runoff voting as an alternative to plurality elections and traditional runoff elections.


3. I have studied extensively the use of ranked choice or instant runoff voting elections in jurisdictions here in the United States and in a number of other countries. Many instant runoff elections are conducted using paper ballots that are counted by hand. Instant runoff elections have been successfully conducted using this method in countless elections over many decades. Ranked ballots have resulted in extremely low rates of ballot spoilage, attesting to the ease of use for voters. In fact, paper ballot systems often have lower voter error rates than voting machines. When Ann Arbor, Michigan used instant runoff voting on traditional paper ballots in 1975, just a
few months after its adoption by voters in November 1974, voter error declined sharply, from
2.3% to 1.2%. Voter error in New York's local school board elections using ranked ballots has
been less than the error rate in the city for balloting in the presidential election. Internationally,
instant runoff voting is used to elect the president of Ireland and a similar ranked-choice system is
used to elect the parliament of Malta. In both elections, a paper ranked ballot is used, and the rate
of invalid ballots is typically less than 1.0% -- well below the national error rate of more than 2%
in the American presidential election in 2000.

4. I called the paper ballot, hand count method to the attention of San Francisco Director
of Elections John Arntz on March 16, 2003. I then reminded Mr. Arntz of this option several
times over the course of the next two months.

5. I attended the July 30, 2003 meeting of the San Francisco Elections Commission. At
that meeting, Commissioner Brenda Stowers stated that the city’s estimate for the total cost of a
ranked choice voting election under the ES&S and Department of Elections proposals was 2.6 to
2.7 million dollars, and that the city’s estimate of the total combined cost of a regular November
election without ranked choice voting and a separate December runoff election was 8.7 million
dollars. The figures did not include an estimate of the cost of a paper ballot, hand count ranked
choice voting election. A true and correct copy of the minutes of the July 30, 2003 meeting is
attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6. I have reviewed the proposals from Electoral Reform Services for conducting a hand
count of paper ballots for the November 2003 San Francisco municipal general election, attached
to the Verified Complaint herein as Exhibits E and G. The total cost of hand counting under the
proposals, including the company’s fee, would be approximately $250,000, one-tenth the
projected cost of the Elections Department’s mixed mechanical-hand count method and a fraction
of the cost of a second citywide election for the runoff in December.

7. I attended the August 6, 2003 meeting of the Board of Supervisors Finance
Committee. At the meeting, Defendant Arntz withdrew the July 23, 2003 request by the
Department of Elections for release of $250,000 in reserve funds for the Department’s Public
Education Plan for Ranked Choice Voting. Mr. Arntz advised the committee that instant runoff voting is “dead” for this year. He also stated that he believes any certification of the ES&S instant runoff voting system would come too late for the Elections Department to use the system this year. Mr. Arntz also stated that the Department has stopped all work on instant runoff voting for the upcoming 2003 general municipal election.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct of my own personal knowledge and that if called upon I could and would testify competently thereto.

Executed this 11th day of August, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

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Steven Hill