

1 [Condemning Homophobia and Misogyny.]

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3 **Resolution condemning homophobic and misogynistic public remarks by the**
4 **Executive Director and members of the Residential Builders Association of San**
5 **Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Section 12A 2 of the San Francisco Administrative Code states, “The
8 policy of the City and County of San Francisco is to act to give effect to the rights of every
9 inhabitant of the City and County to equal economic, political and educational opportunity, to
10 equal accommodations in all business establishments in the City and County and to equal
11 service and protection by public agencies”; and,

12 WHEREAS, Section 12 of the Administrative Code continues, noting, “..In this City and
13 County the practice of discrimination on the actual or perceived grounds of race, religion,
14 color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, weight, height or place
15 of birth and the exploitation of prejudice related thereto adversely affects members of minority
16 groups.”; and

17 WHEREAS, The products of discrimination accumulate continuously, with the result
18 that the social, economic and educational gaps between those suffering discrimination and
19 the majority of the community constantly widen; and,

20 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has repeatedly acted to condemn behavior both
21 here in San Francisco and elsewhere in California and across the country which sought to
22 widen social, economic and educational gaps between those suffering discrimination and the
23 majority of the community; and,

24 WHEREAS, In 2002, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved File # 020584, a
25 resolution condemning the hateful messages targeting the Arab community and Women in

1 the form of graffiti sprayed across one of the murals at the Women's Building in San
2 Francisco's Mission District; and,

3 WHEREAS, In 1999, the Board of Supervisors approved File # 991658, a resolution
4 condemning the racist and anti-Latino misogynist newsletter entitled "Smoke Eaters Gazette"
5 that was published and distributed to members of the San Francisco firefighters and further
6 urging the San Francisco Fire Department, the Hate Crimes Division of the San Francisco
7 Police Department, the District Attorney and the Human Rights Commission to fully
8 investigate the matter and to immediately terminate, penalize and prosecute the perpetrators
9 as soon as they are apprehended; and,

10 WHEREAS, On or around Thursday, February 10th, Joe O'Donoghue, the Executive
11 Director of the Residential Builders Association of San Francisco, published a poem clearly
12 intended as a criticism of the Mayor of San Francisco in which he wrote," Dear Gavin, this
13 ditty as sent to you is out of a love that is deep and true .. Rumors about you they rise and
14 swell, better you show if too shy to tell .. The question now on everyone's lips, From what the
15 glass you amorously sip? Are you or are you are you not, And if so, for whom are you hot? ..
16 You like a batter who hides a bunt Different behind from what's up front, To every group you
17 have sex appeal. Toward whom now do your favors weal? .. Spun you a folklore around your
18 acts, Please separate now the fiction from facts"; and,

19 WHEREAS, During a regularly scheduled meeting of the San Francisco Building
20 Inspection Commission (SF BIC) on April 4th, 2005, members of the Residential Builders
21 Association repeatedly attacked the professional qualifications of a female employee of the
22 City and County of San Francisco by criticizing her status as an expectant mother incapable
23 of performing her duties and implying her pending maternity leave would be a detriment to the
24 City of San Francisco; and,

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1 WHEREAS, During the SF BIC meeting on April 4th, a member of the Residential
2 Builders Association criticized the professional qualifications of San Francisco employee Amy
3 Lee by claiming his wife was unable to make business decisions during her pregnancy due to
4 “pregnancy brain” and asking members of the Commission, “Are you going to replace this
5 man (Acting Director Jim Hutchinson) with pregnancy brain?”; and,

6 WHEREAS, During the same meeting, another member of the Residential Builders
7 Association criticized Ms. Lee’s professional qualifications by stating, “I know a little bit about
8 women .. You don’t have to be a woman to understand .. Amy is going to have to take some
9 medical leave. What’s going to happen then? Who are you going to bring in then?”; and,

10 WHEREAS, Following the misogynistic and sexually discriminatory comments of
11 various members of the Residential Builders Association of San Francisco regarding the
12 employment of Amy Lee, Mr. O’Donoghue failed to disavow these comments, instead using
13 his opportunity for public comment to further the professional criticisms of Ms. Lee; and,

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud tradition of fighting to ensure basic human and
15 civil rights for all individuals and has long been at the vanguard of the movement to eradicate
16 all forms of discrimination based on of race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual
17 orientation, gender identity, disability, weight, height or place of birth; and,

18 WHEREAS, The recent pattern of public comments degrading women and lesbian,
19 gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals by members and leaders of the Residential
20 Builders Association of San must be addressed and firmly disavowed by the City of San
21 Francisco in order to reconfirm our commitment to fighting all forms of bias and intolerance;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
24 condemns recent homophobic and misogynistic statements made by members and leaders of
25 the Residential Builders Association of San Francisco; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to
2 eradicating discrimination and intolerance in all its forms pursuant to the policy of City and
3 County of San Francisco as stated in Section 12 of the Administrative Code.

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