

1 [Urging the California Attorney General to Investigate the Racist Text Messages and Practices
2 of the San Francisco Police Department]

3 **Resolution requesting California Attorney General Kamala Harris initiate a civil-rights**
4 **investigation, pursuant to California Civil Code, Section 52.3, into the San Francisco**
5 **Police Department’s racist text messages and practices.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Two weeks ago it was revealed that a group of San Francisco police
8 officers were involved in exchanging racist and homophobic text messages targeting the
9 African American and LGBT community; and

10 WHEREAS, This recent incident was not the first instance of San Francisco police
11 officers engaging in this type of behavior; and

12 WHEREAS, Last year it was revealed that 14 different San Francisco police officers
13 exchanged hateful racist and homophobic text messages which referred to African Americans
14 as “monkeys” and used homophobic slurs to refer to the LGBT community; and

15 WHEREAS, As a result of Operation Safe Schools which resulted in 37 arrests, all of
16 African Americans, last year federal public defenders filed suit alleging the sting operation was
17 racially biased; and

18 WHEREAS, The Mayor, Police Chief and members of the Board of Supervisors called
19 on the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the policies, procedures, and training of the San
20 Francisco Police Department; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services
22 (COPS) is currently reviewing the policies and training procedures of the San Francisco police
23 department, but this program of the Justice Department does not have the authority to
24 mandate changes in policies in San Francisco; and

25

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon has convened a Blue
2 Ribbon Commission in response to the police texting scandal, but the San Francisco Police
3 Department is not bound by recommendations the Commission will make; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Police Department's Use of Force Policies are
5 currently under review and scrutiny after the death of three men of color in officer involved
6 shootings; and

7 WHEREAS, On December 2, 2015, Mario Woods a 26-year old African American man
8 was shot 21 times by San Francisco Police Officers; and

9 WHEREAS, On February 26, 2015, Amilcar Perez-Lopez, a Guatemalan immigrant
10 was fatally shot by police officers including shots in his the back; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 21, 2014, Alex Nieto a 27-year old man was shot 59 times by
12 San Francisco Police Officers; and

13 WHEREAS, Just last week San Francisco Police Officers shot and killed Luis Gongora,
14 a 45-year old homeless man; and

15 WHEREAS, Recently released data from the San Francisco Police Department
16 between 2013 and 2015 shows African American drivers were searched at a rate more than
17 four times than white drivers and Latino drivers were searched at a rate nearly two and a half
18 times that of white drivers; and

19 WHEREAS, An independent study conducted by the Haywood Burns Institute
20 concluded that African Americans are arrested and convicted at disproportionately higher
21 rates than whites in San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco's African American population is less than 6%, however,
23 African Americans are seven times more likely than whites to be arrested, eleven times more
24 likely to be booked in county jail and ten times more likely to be convicted of a crime in San
25 Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, Confidence in our San Francisco Police Department and officers is
2 imperative to public safety in San Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, All of these incidents suggest a pattern or practices within the San
4 Francisco Police Department which have allowed racial bias to occur; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Attorney General has authority under California Civil Code,
6 Section 52.3 to seek relief to eliminate a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement
7 officers that deprives any person of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by
8 the Constitution or laws of the United States or by the Constitution or laws of California; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors takes seriously any allegations
11 of and condemns any racially motivated practices by any public agency in San Francisco; and,
12 be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins Public
14 Defender Jeff Adachi in requesting the California Attorney General initiate a civil rights
15 investigation into the practices and procedures of the San Francisco Police Department.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25