

1 [Supporting Ukrainian Refugees]

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3 **Resolution in support of Ukrainian refugees, urging the City and County of San**
4 **Francisco to welcome Ukrainian refugees and declaring the City and County's support**
5 **for Ukrainian refugees.**
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7 WHEREAS, Russia launched an unexpected and horrific full-scale military invasion into
8 Ukraine on February 24, 2022; and

9 WHEREAS, This invasion has had devastating consequences for human rights in the
10 region, with the International Organization for Migration estimating that nearly 6.5 million
11 people have been displaced within Ukraine resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths; and

12 WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as a
13 "war criminal" for engaging in these atrocious acts, with leaders of the United Nations, G7,
14 European Union, and other countries standing in solidarity to condemn Russian actions and
15 support Ukrainian forces; and

16 WHEREAS, This attack continues to threaten civilian lives, businesses, and
17 infrastructure; causing acute food shortages and is mass displacement; and

18 WHEREAS, Economic and social rights have already been negatively impacted,
19 including lack of medical supplies and lack of access to healthcare and to an adequate
20 standard of living; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a third
22 of the displaced have left the country, producing the fastest moving refugee crisis since World
23 War II; and
24
25

1 WHEREAS, United Nations data shows that primary destinations for the refugees are
2 Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia but as the war grinds on, people are likely
3 to move on from temporary shelters on the borders; and

4 WHEREAS, In an emergency United Nations General Assembly session on March 2,
5 2022, 141 of 193 member states voted to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and
6 demanded that Russia immediately cease its use of force in Ukraine; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States has issued escalating sanctions on the financial assets of
8 Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Russian elites and their family members, removing
9 Russian banks from the global SWIFT financial messaging system, and banning United
10 States imports of Russian oil and natural gas; and

11 WHEREAS, United States Census Bureau data shows that about 14,000 Bay Area
12 residents were born in Ukraine and about 26,000 claim Ukrainian ancestry. The Bay Area has
13 a larger number of residents with ties to Ukraine than any other city in California and in the
14 United States, with 53 residents per 10,000 having a direct ancestral tie to Ukraine and San
15 Francisco having 62 residents per 10,000 who claim Ukrainian ancestry; and

16 WHEREAS, Ukraine has a Consulate located in San Francisco that is collecting
17 donations and humanitarian aid for refugees, and helping people sign up to volunteer with
18 trusted organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco's small businesses, organizations and residents have come
20 together to raise money for Ukrainians with vigils, benefit concerts, marches and fundraising
21 events being held all across the City; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco-based companies are offering assistance to the people of
23 Ukraine - Airbnb has offered free temporary housing to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, Google,
24 Facebook and Twitter have all blocked Russian companies from generating any ad revenue
25 on their websites; and

1 WHEREAS, Wells Fargo Bank, headquartered in San Francisco, announced a million-
2 dollar donation to three aid organizations helping in Ukraine - The Red Cross, the United
3 Services Organizations (USO) and World Central Kitchen; and

4 WHEREAS, Ukrainians in San Francisco have mobilized to raise thousands of dollars
5 in a grassroots effort to help their community back home, with the most notable local efforts
6 coming from small business owners like Puskin (San Francisco's only Ukrainian restaurant)
7 and Hromada SF a local non-profit serving the Ukrainian community; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor London Breed issued a letter to the San Francisco
9 Retirement Board asking the Board to divest from financial and investment ties to Russia and
10 the Russian government; and

11 WHEREAS, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an Executive Order ordering
12 State agencies to ensure that all their contractors comply with economic sanctions imposed
13 on Russia in response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine; and

14 WHEREAS, State Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire has announced plans to
15 introduce legislation that would require the California Public Employees' Retirement System
16 and California State Teachers' Retirement System to divest from Russian investments; and

17 WHEREAS, Major cities and states across the nation with the highest populations of
18 Ukrainian immigrants (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, California) are standing
19 in solidarity through a range of legislative efforts; and

20 WHEREAS, In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams called on the Biden administration to
21 protect Ukrainians who are currently in the U.S. and aid Ukrainians abroad who seek refuge;
22 New York City Council Member Inna Vernikov has been coordinating with refugee camps in
23 order to resettle people and supply them with food, shelter and medicine; and New York
24 Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the state stands ready to welcome Ukrainian
25 refugees, while also pushing state agencies to curb business with Russian entities; and

1 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Legislature introduced a resolution urging
2 Congress to take further action to support Ukraine by blocking all assets and all transactions
3 of Russian banking institutions and placing an embargo on Russian oil and gas; and

4 WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Legislature introduced a bill that would prohibit
5 public entities in that state from doing business with Russia or companies that have close ties
6 with the Russian government, while also introducing a resolution that condemns the Russian
7 invasion and affirms support for Ukrainian independence; and

8 WHEREAS, Legislators in California issued a statement condemning the Russian
9 invasion of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms, while also asking President Biden to set in
10 motion the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees to the United States on humanitarian grounds;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud history of pro-immigration policies, including,
13 but not limited to the 1989 Sanctuary Ordinance and the 2013 Due Process for All Ordinance.
14 In 2017, then Mayor Ed Lee re-affirmed San Francisco's sanctuary city policy; now, therefore
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and welcomes refugees from
17 Ukraine into our community and urges our state and federal leaders to act immediately and
18 with determination to rightfully bring at-risk and vulnerable Ukrainian peoples and their
19 families to the United States; specifically, the Board of Supervisors encourages California to
20 accept more and house more Ukrainian refugees and supports access to significant
21 opportunities and benefits to individuals and families arriving from Ukraine; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors calls upon our residents, community
23 leaders, businesses, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations to
24 welcome these Ukrainian families in offering benefits and services to Ukrainian refugees
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1 including, but not limited to, housing, food, legal representation, and familial reunification
2 efforts; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges
4 President Joe Biden and the federal government to work speedily to resolve visa
5 requirements, and to establish a mechanism to quickly and efficiently accept refugees from
6 the Ukraine; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the Offices of President
8 Joe Biden, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and
9 Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.