

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1947 (Ting) - Freedom from Hate Crimes]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1947, authored by Assembly**
4 **Member Phil Ting, Freedom from Hate Crimes, which follows the recommendations of**
5 **the State Auditor by requiring each law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes**
6 **policy, including specific guidelines for recognizing, reporting, and responding to**
7 **these crimes.**

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9 WHEREAS, Hate crimes, crimes motivated partly or wholly by hate or bias against the
10 victim's actual or perceived characteristics, such as disability (including disabilities caused by
11 aging), gender (including gender identity), race or ethnicity, nationality (including immigration
12 status), religion, sexual orientation, or association with persons of any of those characteristics,
13 cause multifaceted harms. They injure the immediate victim or victims, like any crime. They
14 cause greater and longer-lasting trauma to victims than similar crimes committed for other
15 motivations. They terrify entire communities, making them co-victims. And they can lead to
16 retaliatory hate crimes against other innocent victims, escalating the cycle of hate and
17 violence; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco, the State of California, and the United States have
19 experienced a wave of hate crimes with unfounded blame on China and backlash against
20 Asian-Americans for the COVID-19 pandemic and a racist backlash against Black Lives
21 Matter protests following the George Floyd lynching; and

22 WHEREAS, The hate crime wave swelled in 2021, as white supremacist and other
23 hate groups, emboldened by violence such as the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United
24 States Capitol and political polarization, found more outlets for their bigotry. According to the
25 Crime Victim Data Disclosure Ordinance annual report, legislated by Supervisor Gordon Mar,

1 anti-Asian hate crimes in San Francisco increased by over 567% from 2020 to 2021.
2 Nationally in 2021, according to these preliminary police department figures, anti-Semitic hate
3 crime reports rose 65%, anti-Latino hate crime reports rose 77%, and anti-Asian hate crime
4 reports rose 342%, while African Americans remained the most targeted community, as in
5 every year since 1991, when the FBI began collecting these data from police agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, Hate crimes against women and girls, particularly in the form of sexual
7 assaults, and against children and adults with disabilities have long been the most grossly
8 unrecognized and unreported, and remain so now; and

9 WHEREAS, The California State Auditor found in 2018, that “Law Enforcement Has
10 Not Adequately Identified, Reported, or Responded to Hate Crimes,” and recommended steps
11 to correct these gaps; and

12 WHEREAS, Although better law enforcement response to hate crimes and better
13 reporting of these crimes would not alone be sufficient to address the root causes of hate
14 crimes and to provide victims and co-victimized communities with all the support they need, it
15 is still necessary to (1) bring perpetrators to justice and deter further hate crimes, (2) begin
16 connecting victims with the services they need, (3) produce valid data to guide communities
17 and decision makers, and (4) begin to build trust and mutual respect between law
18 enforcement and the communities most targeted by hate crimes; and

19 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Members Phil Ting and Richard Bloom, working
20 with a broad, diverse network of community groups throughout the State, have introduced
21 California State Assembly Bill No. (AB) 1947, the Freedom from Hate Crimes Act, based on
22 the recommendations of the California State Auditor; and

23 WHEREAS, AB 1947 would mandate every law enforcement agency in California to
24 adopt a hate crime policy with detailed, specific protocols, including use of supplemental hate
25 crime report forms to investigate suspected hate crimes on the scene. These forms were

1 recommended by the California State Auditor and their use has proved successful in Los
2 Angeles, where the police department uses forms that it developed based on community
3 input; and

4 WHEREAS, AB 1947 would provide for more California Department of Justice
5 leadership and guidance to law enforcement agencies, also as recommended by the audit, by
6 requiring that all law enforcement agencies submit their hate crime policies, brochures, and
7 training schedules to the California Department of Justice; and

8 WHEREAS, AB 1947 would not create or expand the definition of any crimes, would
9 not increase the penalties for any crimes, and would not preclude restorative justice or other
10 alternative sentencing for any crimes; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the Legislature to continue to work
12 to develop community-based, non-law-enforcement approaches to addressing the root causes
13 of hate crimes, meeting the needs of victims and co-victimized communities, and collecting
14 valid data on non-criminal hate incidents; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports and
16 endorses California Assembly Bill No. 1947 (Ting); and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
18 Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to Assembly Members Ting and Bloom, all
19 California State legislators representing San Francisco, and the California State Assembly
20 and State Senate.

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