

1 [Supporting Creation of an American Indian Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory
2 Committee and a Comprehensive Plan to Address Inequities in the American Indian
3 Community]

4 **Resolution supporting the creation of an American Indian Truth and Healing**
5 **Reparations Advisory Committee and the development of a comprehensive plan with**
6 **recommendations to address the inequities that exist in the San Francisco’s American**
7 **Indian community as a consequence of historical racist and unjust federal, state, and**
8 **local policies that contributed to American Indian genocide, land theft, forced removal**
9 **from their lands, and ongoing systemic erasure.**

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11 WHEREAS, The geographical areas now known as the United States of America,
12 California, and San Francisco were founded on stolen lands, slavery, and attempted genocide
13 of American Indian nations, treating American Indians as an obstacle in the name of progress
14 and “manifest destiny”; and

15 WHEREAS, There were over 16,000 documented murders of American Indians
16 implemented under the purview of state and federal law in the period known as the California
17 Genocide (1846-1873); and

18 WHEREAS, The Gold Rush era, which started in 1848, was founded on the
19 enslavement, prostitution, murder, and coercion of American Indian people. The twenty years
20 that followed led to a 90% reduction in the California Indian population; and

21 WHEREAS, The first governor of California, Peter Hardeman Burnett, declared a “war
22 of extermination” against American Indians in his inaugural address and by 1900 only 21,000
23 California American Indians, less than 7% of the estimated pre-colonial population of over
24 300,000, remained; and

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1 WHEREAS, Over 10 million acres of California land was promised as reservations in
2 treaties signed by federal agents during the Gold Rush. None of these reservations were
3 established; the state today has only 990,000 acres of Tribal lands; and

4 WHEREAS, Dishonoring the treaties signed by federal agents during the Gold Rush,
5 the federal government granted 60,000 acres of prime California land as bounties to
6 militiamen who served in the state's campaigns of genocide. Warrants for 8,600 acres, or 14%
7 of this land, were issued at the San Francisco General Land Office at 625 Merchant Street
8 from 1861-65, at 729 Montgomery Street in 1867, at 506 Jackson Street from 1868-1877, and
9 at 610 Commercial Street from 1878-1900; and

10 WHEREAS, It was not until Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 that
11 American Indians born in the United States were recognized as citizens; yet were still denied
12 the right to vote in all fifty states until 1957; and

13 WHEREAS, The genocidal tactics of forced sterilization across the United States
14 during the 1960s and 1970s affected as many as 70,000 American Indian women; and

15 WHEREAS, American Indians did not have the right to legally exercise their religious
16 freedom as granted to US citizens under the First Amendment until the American Indian
17 Religious Freedom Act of 1978, which was enacted to allow American Indians the right to
18 believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions; and

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco sits geographically within the
20 homelands of the Ramaytush Ohlone, an area first known as Yelamu; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Mission Dolores was built on Chutchui, a thriving village
22 site of the Ramaytush Ohlone which was wiped out 12 years after the Mission was
23 established. Dolores is one of the 21 Franciscan missions built on the original inhabited
24 homelands of the Ohlone peoples; and

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1 WHEREAS, The American Indian population is not growing with San Francisco and the
2 single-race American Indian population is declining rapidly; the latest five years of available
3 data from 2014-2019 estimate the population of single-race American Indians declined by 572
4 individuals or 16.7%; and

5 WHEREAS, The 2018 Urban Indian Health Institute report concludes that San
6 Francisco has the tenth highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
7 cases and the second highest number of unsolved cases missing or murdered Indigenous
8 women cases in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, American Indians in San Francisco experience the highest rates of
10 unemployment at 10.7% according to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community
11 Survey 5-Year Estimates compared to 4.9% unemployment rates for the White population
12 citywide; and

13 WHEREAS, American Indian students, based on the 2018-19 California Longitudinal
14 Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), were 3.3 times more likely to experience
15 chronic absenteeism than White students, have 4 times the rate of suspensions compared to
16 White students, 3.8 times the rate did not meet English Language Arts (ELA) standards
17 compared to White students, and 3.7 the rate of not meeting math standards compared to
18 White students; and

19 WHEREAS, Based on the January 2020-2021 Four-Year-Cohort-Reports by California
20 Department of Education (CDE), all students across SFUSD increased in graduation rates,
21 except for American Indian student graduation rates which declined to a startling 63.6% in
22 2019-2020, in comparison to the 90% graduation rate for White students and 95.8% for Asian
23 students; and

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1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco American Indian community has been excluded from
2 important city documents presented to other communities of color that shape policy making
3 decisions, including a historical context statement and community needs assessments; and

4 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco previously acknowledged and
5 investigated concerns facing Native American people in our city and recognized the harms of
6 systemic erasure in the 2007 Human Rights Commission Report titled *Discrimination by*
7 *Ommission: Issues of Concern for Native Americans in San Francisco*, but no initiative has
8 followed on the proposed recommendations in the last 13 years; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed his Director of Governmental
10 Affairs to lead a “unique policy discussion just on Native American issues in the City and
11 County of San Francisco” open to the public, in recognition that the City does not know all it
12 should about its American Indian community and the issues and disparities that this
13 community faces, but this public discussion never took place; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to create an American Indian Truth
15 and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee housed under the San Francisco Human Rights
16 Commission to create a comprehensively plan that will address the inequities that exist in the
17 San Francisco American Indian community as a result of heinous injustices of federal, state,
18 and local policies that resulted in American Indian genocide, forced removal from their lands,
19 land theft, and systemic erasure; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, This Truth and Healing Reparations Advisory Committee will
21 focus on bringing to light the issues faced by the American Indian community, identifying the
22 needs and reparations that must be addressed to achieve overall equity and parity through
23 the development of comprehensive 10-year plan outlining targeted recommendations to
24 alleviate ongoing intergenerational trauma and poverty that continues to create devastatingly
25 disproportionate outcomes for the local American Indian community in San Francisco.