

1 [Condemning the Trump Administration’s “Zero-Tolerance” Immigration Policy - Separating
2 Children From Their Families]

3 **Resolution condemning the Trump Administration’s “zero-tolerance” immigration**
4 **policy that separates children from their families at the border; and affirming and**
5 **defending San Francisco’s immigrant communities.**

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7 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to the
8 city’s immigrant communities and to its sanctuary city status, and since January 2017 has
9 consistently condemned the actions of the Trump administration that seek to make targets of
10 our immigrant residents; and

11 WHEREAS, On April 6, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions notified all United States
12 Attorney’s Offices of a new “zero-tolerance policy” for immigrants crossing the border into the
13 United States illegally; and

14 WHEREAS, This “zero-tolerance policy” has led to a significant increase in the number
15 of immigrant children, as young as eight months, held in United States Government custody
16 separated from their parents; and

17 WHEREAS, Between October 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018, at least 2,700 children have
18 been separated from their parents; between April 18 and May 31, 2018, there were 1,995
19 children separated, meaning an average of 45 children are being taken away from their
20 families each day; and

21 WHEREAS, The approximately 100 Department of Health and Human Services
22 shelters are at or near full capacity, with the agency contemplating housing these children at
23 military bases and tent camps; and

24 WHEREAS, The average length of time spent in these shelters is up to 57 days this
25 year, compared to an average of 51 days last year; and

1 WHEREAS, Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have
2 told reporters that they anticipate to be caring for up to 30,000 children by the end of August
3 should the current “zero-tolerance” policy continue; and

4 WHEREAS, Reports have emerged from the shelters that children are experiencing
5 severe separation trauma, inability to sleep, nightmares, crying, begging for their parents and
6 physical pain; and

7 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics has emphasized that separating
8 children from their parents can cause irreparable harm to a child's health and well-being; and

9 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association wrote an open letter to Donald
10 Trump urging reconsideration of the policy and commit to more humane practices that protect
11 against trauma, warning against a “mental health crisis” for impacted children and families;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association issued its own statement
14 condemning the separation of children from families as “inhumane,” warning that separation
15 could lead to anxiety, depression, substance abuse, alcoholism, obesity and suicide for
16 impacted children; and

17 WHEREAS, There are many allegations of abuse and mistreatment of children at these
18 detention facilities by the American Civil Liberties Union, among others; and

19 WHEREAS, President Trump and his administration has repeatedly deflected
20 responsibility for this policy, using these children as political pawns in his goal to build a
21 border wall; and

22 WHEREAS, Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)
23 and 31 of her colleagues introduced legislation on June 8, 2018, to keep immigrant families
24 together by preventing the Department of Homeland Security from taking children from their
25 parents at the border; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Congress must come together and address this abusive
2 and cruel policy that is ripping apart families by supporting Senator Feinstein’s “Keep Families
3 Together Act”; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly condemns the Trump
5 administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy of separating immigrant children from their families at
6 the border, and calls for an immediate end to this practice; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors condemns any immigration
8 policy that treats children and families inhumanely, or could inflict irreversible damage on
9 children and families; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will continue to affirm and
11 defend our immigrant residents, call for families to be kept unified, and denounce attacks that
12 seek to criminalize immigrant communities.

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