

1 [Investigate the closure of Real Food Co. on 24th Street in Noe Valley.]

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3 **Resolution requesting National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Department of Building**
4 **Inspection (DBI) and other appropriate agencies investigate the closure of Real Food**
5 **Co. on 24th Street in Noe Valley.**
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7 WHEREAS, On the evening of Thursday, August 28, 2003, thirty employees of the
8 Real Food Co. store on 24th Street in Noe Valley were shocked to learn that they were being
9 laid off summarily without prior notice; and,

10 WHEREAS, On the following morning customers were surprised to discover that Noe
11 Valley's Real Food Co. store was closed, without prior public notice, for the remainder of the
12 year; and,

13 WHEREAS, The original owners of Real Food Co., which first opened in 1969, sold
14 this San Francisco based company to Fresh Organics, a subsidiary of the Utah-based
15 Nutraceutical International Corp., in 2002; and,

16 WHEREAS, Many of the 24th Street employees believe that the unexpected closure of
17 this store, without notice, are actually a result of organizing activity by employees seeking to
18 unionize, which is a violation of federal law; and,

19 WHEREAS, Assertions by Nutraceutical that the six month renovation was long-
20 planned are contradicted by the arrival of large quantities of grocery stock the day before the
21 store's closure, and the lack of any permit applications for interior renovations; and,

22 WHEREAS, There are numerous allegations of possible bad faith actions by Fresh
23 Organics and Nutraceutical to prevent employee organizing thereby causing the loss of
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1 employment and financial hardship for longtime employees as well as depriving loyal
2 customers of an organic grocer without notice or consideration; and,

3 WHEREAS, Complaints have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board
4 (NLRB) and the San Francisco Department of Building Inspection (DBI) over possible
5 violations; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors expresses its
7 disappointment to Nutraceutical Corp. over the allegations of a lack of consideration and
8 appreciation for employees and customers with its summary closure of Real Food Co. in Noe
9 Valley; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that National Labor
11 Relations Board (NLRB), Department of Building Inspection (DBI) and other appropriate
12 agencies investigate thoroughly any alleged violations that have occurred as a result of
13 Nutraceutical's actions.

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