

1 [Endorsing Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial, and Religious Profiling]

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4 **Resolution endorsing “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial, and Religious**
5 **Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities (AMEMSA)**
6 **and Potential Reactivation of Police Department’s Intelligence Gathering,” a report**
7 **published by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.**

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9 WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to various immigrant communities that contribute
10 to the social, political, economic and cultural richness of the City; and

11 WHEREAS, The AMEMSA communities in the Bay Area are comprised of diverse
12 religious, economic, ethnic and national communities that represent a substantial portion of
13 the world; and

14 WHEREAS, There are an estimated one-quarter of a million individuals in the Bay
15 Area identifying as Muslim, which does not include individuals who may be perceived as
16 Muslim, but who do not identify as Muslim, or others from the Middle East or South Asia; and

17 WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001 there has been a steady rise in Islamophobia;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, AMEMSA community members are concerned about the criminalization of
20 their identity and guilt-by-association becoming the standard for policing and national security
21 strategies; and

22 WHEREAS, In the Spring of 2010, the Chief of Police, in a public gathering stated the
23 Hall of Justice may be susceptible not only to an earthquake, but also to members of the
24 City’s Middle Eastern community parking a van in front of it and blowing it up; and

1 WHEREAS, Members of the AMEMSA community immediately responded by
2 demanding an apology and forming the Coalition for a Safe San Francisco (“Coalition”); and

3 WHEREAS, The Coalition was formed to respond to the community’s concerns
4 surrounding racial and religious profiling and surveillance of AMEMSA communities by the
5 San Francisco Police Department and to safeguard the civil liberties and civil rights of San
6 Franciscans from overboard national security policies; and

7 WHEREAS, On September 23, 2010 the Human Rights Commission held a hearing in
8 order to provide a forum to document the community’s concerns and to make
9 recommendations to address them; and

10 WHEREAS, On February 24, 2011 the San Francisco Human Rights Commission
11 voted unanimously to adopt and publish “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and
12 Religious Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities and
13 Potential Reactivation of SFPD Intelligence Gathering,” a report detailing key testimony from
14 various community members, community organizers, members of the clergy, attorneys, and
15 scholars who testified at the hearing; and

16 WHEREAS, “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling of
17 Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of
18 SFPD Intelligence Gathering,” concludes with 31 findings and recommendations to address
19 the concerns of AMEMSA community members; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes and endorses
21 “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern,
22 Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of SFPD Intelligence
23 Gathering;” and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages the
25 relevant agencies to consider implementing the recommendations and findings detailed in

1 “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling of Arab, Middle Eastern,
2 Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of SFPD Intelligence
3 Gathering;” and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends the
5 members of the AMEMSA community and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for
6 their work in publishing “Community Concerns of Surveillance, Racial and Religious Profiling
7 of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities and Potential Reactivation of
8 SFPD Intelligence Gathering.”

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