

1 [Denouncing the 49ers for Allowing Ray McDonald to Continue Playing While Facing Felony
2 Domestic Violence Charges]

3 **Resolution denouncing the 49ers franchise for allowing Ray McDonald to continue**
4 **playing during an active investigation for felony domestic violence charges and urging**
5 **both the 49ers and the NFL to strengthen their policies against domestic violence.**

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7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco 49ers have long been known a “first-class”
8 organization, a paragon of equal parts success and class; and

9 WHEREAS, Though they now play in Santa Clara, the 49ers still bear the name of our
10 City; and

11 WHEREAS, The actions or inactions of the 49ers’ leadership impact both the franchise
12 and the City; and

13 WHEREAS, Professional athletes enjoy great fame and possess great influence in our
14 popular culture, particularly among children; and

15 WHEREAS, It is imperative that professional sports, popular culture, and anyone
16 associated with the name San Francisco stand up against domestic violence, lest they injure
17 the people of our city and every other; and

18 WHEREAS, On Sunday August 31st, 49er defensive end Ray McDonald was arrested
19 and booked into Santa Clara County Jail on felony domestic violence charges, which the
20 Santa Clara District Attorney is currently investigating; and

21 WHEREAS, Only one week after his arrest, and in spite of the serious criminal charges
22 against him, the 49ers allowed Mr. McDonald to play in their September 7 game against the
23 Dallas Cowboys; and

24 WHEREAS, While criminal defendants are innocent until proven guilty and prosecutors
25 must prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt, the threshold of accountability should rightly

1 be lower for decisions about participating in a corporate athletic event for the public's
2 entertainment; and

3 WHEREAS, 49ers legend Brent Jones recently said, "The logical, thoughtful leadership
4 move would be not to have [Mr. McDonald] play;" and

5 WHEREAS, In most cases the City of San Francisco places its own employees, such
6 as police officers and firefighters, on paid administrative leave pending the investigation of
7 serious criminal charges related to their job; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald should be held to the same standard as everyone else
9 whose uniform bears the name "San Francisco"; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Football League (NFL) only suspended Baltimore Ravens
11 running back Ray Rice for two games after video surfaced of him dragging his unconscious
12 then-fiancée out of a public elevator; and

13 WHEREAS, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell subsequently apologized for the
14 unjustifiably lax treatment of Mr. Rice; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Football League specifically, major league sports in general,
16 and American culture must do more to stop domestic violence and protect the victims of
17 abuse; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors denounces the 49ers' decision to allow
19 Ray McDonald to play on Sunday September 7 and urges the 49ers not to repeat the same
20 mistake this Sunday September 14; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the 49ers and the NFL to
22 reevaluate and strengthen their procedures for addressing accusations of criminal activity,
23 particularly domestic violence, levied against their personnel.

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