

1 [Urging Statewide Action to Suspend ICE Detention Facilities]

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3 **Resolution affirming that continued operation of ICE detention facilities during the**
4 **COVID-19 emergency is inhumane; and urging California Governor Gavin Newsom to**
5 **take immediate action to suspend ICE detentions in California.**

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7 WHEREAS, California is home to more immigrants than any other state, and houses
8 one of the largest immigrant detention systems in the country; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 19, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive
10 Order N-33-20, ordering residents to heed the shelter-in-place directive of the State Public
11 Health Officer; and

12 WHEREAS, The threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in immigration detention facilities is
13 dire and imminent, and individuals incarcerated in California’s immigration detention facilities
14 are some of the most vulnerable to coronavirus infection in the state; and

15 WHEREAS, The history of inadequate health care provisions at these detention
16 facilities exacerbate the concern around the current health crisis, putting at risk thousands of
17 lives; and

18 WHEREAS, The imprisonment and prolonged detention of asylum-seeking children
19 and families is inhumane; and

20 WHEREAS, Children and families incarcerated in U.S. Immigration and Customs
21 Enforcement (“ICE”) detention facilities have suffered adverse effects from their imprisonment,
22 including documented medical neglect, psychological trauma, and persistent harassment; and

23 WHEREAS, In light of the federal administration’s erratic and irresponsible behavior
24 with respect to COVID-19 and the health, safety and welfare of individuals in immigration

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1 detention, the state must do everything in its power to protect all Californians and halt the
2 separation and detention of families; and

3 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory Committee on
4 Family Residential Centers published a report in September 2016 stating that detention is
5 generally neither appropriate nor necessary for families, and that detention or separation of
6 families for purposes of immigration enforcement or management or detention is never in the
7 best interest of children; and

8 WHEREAS, Detention facilities are designed to maximize control of the incarcerated
9 population, not to minimize disease transmission or to efficiently deliver health care; and

10 WHEREAS, This fact is compounded by often crowded and unsanitary conditions, poor
11 ventilation, lack of adequate access to hygienic materials such as soap and water or hand
12 sanitizers, poor nutrition, and failure to adhere to recognized standards for prevention,
13 screening, and containment; and

14 WHEREAS, The number of confirmed and presumed cases of COVID-19 in California
15 is growing, and health systems are already starting to be strained; and

16 WHEREAS, Social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease
17 Control (CDC) are nearly impossible to adhere to in immigration detention, and testing
18 remains widely unavailable; and

19 WHEREAS, In detention facilities that are already at maximum capacity, large-scale
20 quarantines may not be feasible; and

21 WHEREAS, In the face of federal inaction, states and cities have a moral responsibility
22 to lead; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors affirms that the continued
24 operation of ICE detention facilities during the current public health crisis is inhumane and
25 endangers the lives of detainees; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor
2 Gavin Newsom to take immediate action to (1) call for the release of immigrants in detention,
3 (2) halt the expansion of all immigration detentions effective immediately, and (3) suspend the
4 transfer of individuals from California’s custody to ICE; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, upon passage of
6 this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Newsom.

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