

1 [Expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic  
2 rights to transparent self governance]

3 **Resolution expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure**  
4 **their democratic rights to transparent self governance.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, June 13, 2009, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected to  
7 his second term, with the government reporting that he received 63% of the popular vote,  
8 despite the most recent public poll indicating a 54% to 39% lead for his challenger, Hossein  
9 Mousavi; and,

10 WHEREAS, There has been widespread reports of election day irregularities including  
11 voting booths closing early due to a reported shortage of ballots and the country's cellphone  
12 and SMS (text messaging) networks going down on election day; and,

13 WHEREAS, The reporting of the election results was highly suspicious with the  
14 government claiming that forty million hand-written ballots were counted in the span of twelve  
15 hours, and,

16 WHEREAS, The election results showed near uniform results from virtually all regions  
17 of Iran, in stark contrast to the widely varying demographics that all previous Iranian elections  
18 have displayed; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Islamic Republic of Iran is not a democracy, it's a theocracy, and  
20 there should be no surprise that election irregularities have taken place since no independent  
21 monitors such as the United Nations were allowed to observe the process; and,

22 WHEREAS, We may never know the true outcome of the presidential election since  
23 the current regime under President Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali  
24 Khamenei have used less-than-transparent forces such as the security services and the  
25

1 Revolutionary Guard to help administer the election process, while the Interior Ministry counts  
2 the forty million votes casts; and,

3 WHEREAS, Despite great adversity toward those that demonstrate their freedom of  
4 speech, millions of Iranians have exercised great feats of courage and creativity toward  
5 motivating a new reform movement not seen since the 1978-1979 revolution that toppled the  
6 Pahlavi dynasty; and,

7 WHEREAS, There is electricity in the air in Iran hundreds of thousands of protesters in  
8 the streets demanding a clean and fair election, and reforms such as women's rights and  
9 freedom of expression; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Iranian government has cracked down on these democratic protests,  
11 leading to the deaths of at least seven protesters, the arrests of hundreds of opposition  
12 leaders, continued disruptions of Internet, cellphone and SMS service, and the censoring of  
13 both foreign and domestic media; and,

14 WHEREAS, There are signs that the massive and sustained protests are having an  
15 effect on the Iranian government, including Supreme Leader Khamenei reconsider his initial  
16 endorsement of the election results and directing the Guardian Council to conduct an inquiry  
17 into the alleged voting irregularities, and,

18 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 400,000 Iranian-Americans living in California,  
19 and nearly double that number in the entire United States; many of these eligible expatriates  
20 voted or tried to vote by absentee ballot in the recent Iranian presidential election; and,

21 WHEREAS, Similarly to the "citizen diplomacy" strategies deployed between non-  
22 governmental organizations (NGO's) in the United States and the Soviet Union during the  
23 Cold War of the 1970s and 1980s, fertile opportunity exists between the peoples of the  
24 United States and Iran to foster a new grassroots diplomacy aimed at pursuing peace between  
25 both nations and democratic reforms in Iran;

1           WHEREAS, Even a "green revolution" in Iran will not happen overnight, and even the  
2 best democracies have their worst moments as evidenced by the electoral ascendancy of  
3 George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election; only to fuel passions that led to the  
4 election of President Barack Obama in 2008; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
6 urges the Iranian government to respect its people's right to peaceful protest, end the violent  
7 repression of non-violent demonstrations and respect the United Nations Universal  
8 Declaration of Human Rights; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with the  
10 nonviolent creative protests that seek corrective action to voting irregularities in Iran, and  
11 respectfully calls upon the Guardian Council and Ayatollah to implement electoral procedures  
12 that validate an accountable election process; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its support for the  
14 people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self-  
15 governance in the wake of the national election of June 13, 2009.