

1 [Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Condemning Immigration and Customs
2 Enforcement Audits of San Francisco Businesses]

3 **Resolution calling upon United States Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration**
4 **Reform that will solve the problem of undocumented immigration at its roots instead of**
5 **through piecemeal enforcement-only measures, and condemning Immigration and**
6 **Customs Enforcement audits of San Francisco businesses, including a unionized**
7 **company.**

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10 WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system is
11 necessary to meet the dual goals of ensuring a thriving and secure community and economy
12 in the United States and protecting the human and civil rights of immigrants; and

13 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform should include the following elements:
14 (1) a plan for providing legal permanent resident status to undocumented immigrants who are
15 living and working in the United States, (2) improvement of the economic situation of all
16 workers in the United States including the restoration of the right to work for all immigrants, (3)
17 the reform of visa programs in order to keep families together, including granting Lesbian,
18 Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) lawful permanent resident and U.S. citizens the right
19 to petition for their domestic partners (4) the implementation of enforcement measures
20 targeted at the worst violators of immigration and labor laws, (5) prioritizing immigrant
21 integration into our country, and (6) respect for the due process rights of everyone in the
22 United States; and,

23 WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on November
24 19, 2009 that it will implement a new enforcement strategy of auditing workplaces to verify the
25 immigration status of employees. ICE announced that it will audit 1000 businesses nationwide

1 but did not reveal how it chose the businesses or whether it took into account if the employer
2 is unionized, abides by federal and state labor standards, or if it provides high wages and
3 benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, enforcement-based immigration strategies for the past two decades have
5 mostly failed in deterring unauthorized migration despite the allocations of hundreds of
6 millions of federal tax dollars; and

7 WHEREAS, locally hundreds of San Francisco Janitors, members of Service
8 Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 87, are experiencing an ICE audit, also known as
9 “a desktop raid.” Hundreds of these janitors, many of whom were employed by the business
10 for decades, are at risk of losing their jobs, under the best union contract in the nation in the
11 janitorial industry. The business provided a full range of benefits and full health care coverage
12 for its employees; and

13 WHEREAS, Hornblower Cruises & Events, a company serving the tourist industry of
14 the Bay Area and California, experienced the loss of 1/3 of its San Francisco based workforce
15 due to an ICE audit in February 2010. All the Hornblower employees were long-term workers
16 with over 5 to 20 years of loyal service to the company; and

17 WHEREAS, Audits of local businesses in San Francisco, are resulting in mass layoffs
18 of hardworking residents, disrupting their lives, the lives of their family, and condemning their
19 future; and

20 WHEREAS, our country is struggling to climb out of the worst economic recession
21 since the Great Depression, the city is facing unprecedented budget deficits, and
22 unemployment is at an all time high, and the ICE audits are causing great disruption of local
23 businesses that provide stable jobs to San Francisco residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, Local 87 and its International Union have called for an immediate
2 moratorium of the ICE audits until a standard and fair process for verification can be
3 established; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages President Barack Obama and
5 the U.S. Congress to pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that prioritizes keeping
6 families together, upholding civil and human rights, and promoting economic justice; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the U.S. Congress to
8 place a moratorium on piecemeal enforcement measures, including ICE audits of businesses,
9 and instead work to hold a hearing on the ICE workplace audits, and pose questions that
10 inquire into how ICE identifies businesses to audit, what considerations it takes into account,
11 including whether the business is unionized, and the ramifications that the audits have on
12 local economies and communities; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
14 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama, Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Nancy Pelosi, and Senators
16 Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, and Charles Schumer.

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