

1 [Resolution Condemning Hate Speech Targeting Muslims]

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3 **Resolution condemning violence and hate speech, expressing solidarity with Muslims**
4 **and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race, or religion.**

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6 WHEREAS, The United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious
7 persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation’s fundamental legal and
8 ethical principles; and

9 WHEREAS, The history of Islam in the United States began even before its founding
10 when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where they later helped in
11 numerous ways to build this country, including sacrificing their lives on the line in every major
12 war from the Revolutionary War on; and

13 WHEREAS, There are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States today,
14 and approximately 250,000 living in the Bay Area, making invaluable contributions to our
15 economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

16 WHEREAS, There has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of hate
17 crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans and those
18 perceived as Muslims; and

19 WHEREAS, Arab and Muslim Americans, and those perceived as Muslims, are
20 frequently the targets of abusive and discriminatory police practices sanctioned by the state
21 including surveillance in their neighborhoods and places of worship; and

22 WHEREAS, A recent analysis by the Los Angeles Times reported that “The number of
23 anti-Muslim hate crimes has risen by 122% between 2014 and 2015;” and

24 WHEREAS, We are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric
25 against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color, and we

1 are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected government officials leading this
2 escalation and using it in order to gain power; and

3 WHEREAS, In the face of extreme bigotry and violence, Muslim communities and their
4 leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote peace and justice and
5 service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role providing
6 charitable and humanitarian services to those in need; and

7 WHEREAS, We, as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility
8 not to stay silent in the face of hate violence and discrimination against any of our constituents
9 or countrymen; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisor condemns all hateful speech and violent
11 action directed at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants and people of color;
12 and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisor categorically rejects political
14 tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or to gain power or influence; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commits to pursuing a policy
16 agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of
17 race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and,
18 be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms the value of a
20 pluralistic society, the beauty of a culture composed of multiple cultures, and the inalienable
21 right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.

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