

1 [Condemning Anti-Arab and Anti-Muslim Bus Advertisements]

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3 **Resolution standing with Muslim and Arab communities in the face of anti-Arab**
4 **and anti-Muslim bus advertisements.**

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6 WHEREAS, San Franciscans have come from around the world, and at its core,
7 the City and County of San Francisco celebrates diversity, stands for acceptance, and
8 has fought bigotry and racism; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco has many Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South
10 Asian (AMEMSA) residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Members of AMEMSA communities have been subjected to
12 pervasive discrimination and hate crimes in the aftermath of the tragic events of
13 September 11, 2001; and

14 WHEREAS, American Freedom Defense Initiative (AFDI) was co-founded by
15 Pamela Geller, AFDI has been designated by the Southern Law Poverty Center (SLPC)
16 as an anti-Muslim hate group, and Geller has been designated by SLPC as an anti-
17 Muslim hate extremist; and

18 WHEREAS, In August of 2012, the AFDI submitted offensive, bigoted bus
19 advertisements to the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) that referred
20 to Muslims and Arabs as savages; and

21 WHEREAS, The SFMTA Director and Chair and 75 organizations and 35
22 community leaders representing diverse communities and civil rights, labor and social
23 justice organizations, including the Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, African-American, Asian-
24 American, Latino, LGBT and Jewish communities, spoke in solidarity together with
25 AMEMSA communities in condemnation of the advertisements; and

1 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, members of the Muslim and Arab communities
2 were deeply harmed by advertisements, and organized a community forum on January
3 31, 2013, with city leadership in attendance to discuss the pervasive environment of
4 bullying and discrimination directed at the Muslim and Arab communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The AFDI have resumed publication of offensive advertisements that
6 denigrate Muslims and Arabs on SFMTA buses on October 15, 2014; and

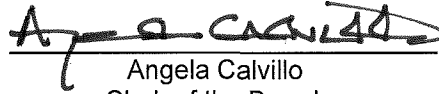
7 WHEREAS, In response to the latest advertisements, the SFMTA created the
8 “Peace Campaign” to promote a positive message of peace, love, respect, and
9 acceptance, and will run its “Peace Campaign” on vehicles through the end of 2014;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors stands with its AMEMSA communities in
12 the condemnation of the Islamophobic and racist advertisements notwithstanding that
13 the advertisements may have First Amendment protections; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages fellow
15 community leaders and residents to speak out against these advertisements and stand
16 in solidarity with members of the Muslim and Arab communities against the hate being
17 directed at them.

Date: November 14, 2014

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

File No.
141108