

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

2

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

5

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.