

1 [Urging Federal and State Government Action and Accountability.]

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3 **Resolution urging Federal and State government action and employer accountability.**

4
5 WHEREAS, in July and August of 2001, three garment factories in San Francisco, Win
6 Fashions, Wins of California and Win Industries of AMERICA, all owned and operated by
7 Anna Wong and Toha "Jimmy" Quan, were shut down by the State Labor Commissioner for
8 violations of labor law and operating illegally without a license; and

9 WHEREAS, approximately 240 former employees of these garment factories, all
10 monolingual Chinese immigrant women, labored for 3-4 months without pay and are owed
11 over \$1 million in back wages by their former employer; and,

12 WHEREAS, according to State and Federal officials, the Wins case involves some of
13 the most egregious labor law violations in Northern California history; and,

14 WHEREAS, the Wins garment workers have still not received *any* of their back wages;
15 and,

16 WHEREAS, the Wins garment workers filed claims for their back wages with the
17 California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), and State and Federal officials
18 initiated investigations into the Wins case over a year ago; and,

19 WHEREAS, the Wins garment workers have witnessed little or no action and received
20 very little communication from Federal or State officials about the status of their wage claims;
21 and,

22 WHEREAS, the Wins garment workers and their representative, the Chinese
23 Progressive Association, are concerned that Federal officials may be preparing to negotiate a
24 settlement with their former employer without consulting with the workers; and,

1 WHEREAS, the Wins garment workers and their representatives, the Chinese
2 Progressive Association, are concerned that former employers Anna Wong and Toha
3 “Jimmy” Quan will not be held accountable for their flagrant violations of State and Federal
4 labor laws protecting the former Wins garment workers; and,

5 WHEREAS, the vast majority of the Wins garment workers have not been able to find
6 stable employment since the factories were shut down, have exhausted their unemployment
7 insurance benefits and find themselves and their families in a desperate economic situation;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States
10 Department of Labor and the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to enforce
11 state and federal labor laws by vigorously pursuing the back wage claims of the former
12 workers of Win Fashions, Wins of California and Win Industries; and,

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
14 United States Department of Labor and the California Division of Labor Standards
15 Enforcement to hold the sweatshop owners accountable for their actions, to send a message
16 to other employers that such violations of state and federal labor laws will not be tolerated
17 and to ensure full accountability to the workers; and,

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
19 California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to hold accountable the garment
20 manufacturers whose labels were sewn by the former workers of Wins Fashion, Wins of
21 California, and Wins Industries; and,

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will send a
23 letter to Elaine Chao, the United States Secretary of Labor, and to Arthur Lujan, the California
24 State Labor Commissioner, articulating the above facts and resolutions.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 021605

Date Passed:

Resolution on behalf of the former Wins Garment Workers Urging Federal and State Government Action and Employer Accountability.

September 30, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee
Absent: 1 - Daly

File No. 021605

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 30, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

OCT 1 1 2002

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.