

1 [Resolution urging the United States federal government to end the U.S. military occupation  
2 of Afghanistan.]

3 **Resolution urging the United States federal government to end the U.S. military**  
4 **occupation of Afghanistan while providing humanitarian aid to support the recovery of**  
5 **the country from the effects of war.**

6 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the use of military  
7 force against terrorists on Sept. 18, 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, On Sept. 21, 2001, former President George W. Bush addressed a joint  
9 session of the U.S. Congress indicting al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan for the  
10 terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001; and,

11 WHEREAS, October 7, 2009 marks the eight year anniversary of the start of U.S.  
12 military involvement in Afghanistan by the Bush administration. The U.S. war, dubbed  
13 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) by the Bush administration began when American and  
14 British forces launched an aerial bombing campaign against Taliban, and training camps in  
15 Afghanistan; launching the so called "Global War on Terror"; and,

16 WHEREAS, The National Priorities Project reports \$228 billion dollars have been  
17 committed to the war in Afghanistan; and that the cost to San Francisco taxpayers is \$770  
18 million dollars; funding which could've paid for 13,758 safety officers, healthcare for 316,961  
19 people, or 11,061 elementary school teachers for one year; and,

20 WHEREAS, According to a CNN count, 849 U.S. service men and women and 569  
21 service men and women from NATO ally countries have been killed while serving in  
22 Afghanistan, and according to the Pentagon at least 4,139 U.S. personnel have been  
23 wounded; and,

24 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, over  
25 1,000 Afghan civilians have been killed in 2009 alone, up 24% from 2008; with death rates

1 expected to continue to rise; and estimates of direct civilian casualties since 2001 are in  
2 thousands, with estimates of indirect deaths as a result of disease, hunger, displacement and  
3 exposure in the tens of thousands; and,

4 WHEREAS, According to a Cost of War report, there are an estimated 2.7 million  
5 Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran, and according to Campaign for Innocent Victims  
6 in Conflict, there are approximately 45,000 internally displaced peoples within the country,  
7 and,

8 WHEREAS, The war in Afghanistan dehumanizes the Afghan people and denies them  
9 their human right to self-determination; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Afghan people increasingly perceive U.S. and ally forces as foreign  
11 invaders, according to a N.Y. Times report in September 2009, and,

12 WHEREAS, On September 22, 2009 the top U.S. Commander, General McChrystal  
13 recommended sending 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan by the end of the year; and,

14 WHEREAS, According to a September 24<sup>th</sup> article in the New Yorker, the legitimacy of  
15 the Karzai government is in question after election officials and observers reported  
16 widespread fraud during the September ballot casting; and,

17 WHEREAS, According to a 2008 RAND Corporation study, there is no battlefield  
18 solution to terrorism, while a recent Wall St. Journal article reports that as al Qaeda's  
19 presence in Afghanistan is shrinking, the military is instead becoming enmeshed in fighting  
20 the Taliban, and other forces resisting occupation, and furthermore there is widespread  
21 acknowledgement that the "Global War on Terror" has failed to capture Osama Bin Laden;  
22 and,

23 WHEREAS, The Afghanistan War is increasing compared to the U.S. quagmire in  
24 Vietnam, now ongoing for 8 years, the second longest war waged by the U.S. after Vietnam  
25 and,

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WHEREAS, The citizens of San Francisco in 2004 passed a ballot measure against the Iraq War with more than 2/3 of the vote, and 257 cities, 4 counties and 16 states have passed similar peace resolutions; and,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate is currently considering Representative James McGovern's House Resolution 2404: To require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to congress outlining the United States exit strategy for United States military forces in Afghanistan participation in Operation Enduring Freedom; and,

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2009 the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee adopted a resolution supporting HR 2404; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly supports the women and men serving in the United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan, acknowledges the sacrifice each of them is making; and regrets the loss of civilian life; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco urges the California Congressional Delegation, President Obama, the U.S. Congress, and NATO allies to stop the escalation of troops and begin to withdraw military presence in Afghanistan, in an orderly fashion, while providing humanitarian aid to support the recovery of the country from the effects of the war, to protect and promote the dignity and rights of the Afghan people; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the passage of Representative's McGovern's House Resolution 2404.