

1 [Mitigating Violence Against Prostitutes]

2 URGING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND  
3 ASSOCIATED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO RIGOROUSLY PROSECUTE LAWS  
4 AGAINST COERCION, EXTORTION, BATTERY, RAPE AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES,  
5 REGARDLESS OF THE VICTIM'S STATUS AS A SEX WORKER; AND FURTHER URGING  
6 AFOREMENTIONED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO REALLOCATE EXISTING  
7 RESOURCES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF PROSTITUTES  
8 TOWARDS SERVICE PROGRAMS TO ENABLE WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO  
9 LEAVE PROSTITUTION AND BECOME INDEPENDENT, AS WELL AS TO CONSIDER  
10 THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1996  
11 SAN FRANCISCO TASK FORCE ON PROSTITUTION REPORT, THE 1998 COMMISSION  
12 ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN  
13 PROSTITUTION IN SAN FRANCISCO AS WELL AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
14 RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS AND REDUCE INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE AND  
15 DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PROSTITUTES.

16 WHEREAS, Rejection by family, poverty and homelessness often force young women  
17 and men to turn to prostitution to survival ; and

18 WHEREAS, These young women and men, who have limited or no employment history  
19 and who are often under age, often temporarily turn to prostitution to obtain a room for the  
20 night or meal for the day ; and

21 WHEREAS, Without families, these young men and women fall prey to pimps and  
22 become entrapped in a hellish cycle of poverty, drug addiction, prostitution and violence; and

23 WHEREAS, Many prostitute women have children and must rely on prostitution to  
24 support their families; and

25  
Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman

1           WHEREAS, Once entrapped in a life of prostitution, prostitutes experience a never  
2 ending cycle of violence including coercion, extortion, rape, battery, robbery, attempted  
3 homicide perpetrated against them by pimps, johns, and even law enforcement officials; and

4           WHEREAS, The majority of prostitutes do not report these illegal and violent acts  
5 because they are often dismissed, blamed for incurring such violence because of their  
6 profession or in some cases, further abused by law enforcement authorities knowing that the  
7 testimony of prostitutes would not considered credible ; and

8           WHEREAS, It is only in cases of extreme violence in which a prostitute feels that her  
9 life is imminent danger that a prostitute will risk coming forward and testifying against her  
10 perpetrator; and

11           WHEREAS, Law enforcement officials should pursue and prosecute cases of rape,  
12 battery, assault, extortion, robbery and attempted homicide against prostitutes with the same  
13 rigor as any other citizen; and

14           WHEREAS, Criminalization of prostitution only forces prostitution further underground  
15 and increases incidents of violence against prostitutes; and

16           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution was created by the Board of  
17 Supervisors in 1996 ; and

18           WHEREAS, According 1996 statistics compiled by the Task Force on Prostitution, San  
19 Francisco allocates \$7.6 million annually to law enforcement officials to prosecute prostitution  
20 related cases; and

21           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution, the San Francisco  
22 Commission on the Status of Women and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission  
23 passed resolutions urging the Board of Supervisors to redirect resources dedicated to  
24 prosecuting prostitution related cases to social service programs for prostitutes and their  
25 families ; and

1           WHEREAS, The aforementioned City agencies also recommended that law  
2 enforcement agencies rigorously prosecute laws against coercion, extortion, battery, rape and  
3 other violent crimes, regardless of victim's status as a sex worker; now therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
5 hereby urges the San Francisco Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney and  
6 other associated law enforcement agencies to rigorously prosecute laws against coercion,  
7 extortion, battery, rape and other violent crimes, regardless of the victim's status as a sex  
8 worker; and be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Police  
10 Department, the Office of the District Attorney and other associated law enforcement agencies  
11 to reallocate resources for the investigation and prosecution of prostitutes towards establishing  
12 service programs to enable women and their families to leave prostitutes and become  
13 independent; and be it

14           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Police  
15 Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and associated law enforcement agencies to  
16 consider adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the 1996 San Francisco  
17 Task Force On Prostitution Report, the 1998 Commission on the Status of Women Report on  
18 Violence Against Women in Prostitution in San Francisco as well as the Human Rights  
19 Commission recommendations to address and reduce institutional violence and discrimination  
20 against prostitutes.

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25           **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 001564

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and associated law enforcement agencies to rigorously prosecute laws against coercion, extortion, battery, rape and other violent crimes, regardless of the victim's status as a sex worker; and further urging aforementioned law enforcement agencies to reallocate existing resources for the investigation and prosecution of prostitutes towards service programs to enable women and their families to leave prostitution and become independent, as well as to consider the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the 1996 San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution Report, the 1998 Commission on the Status of Women Report on Violence Against Women in Prostitution in San Francisco as well as the Human Rights Commission recommendations to address and reduce institutional violence and discrimination against prostitutes.

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September 18, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

Absent: 2 - Ammiano, Katz

File No. 001564

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 18, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



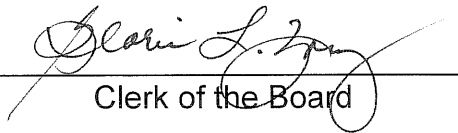
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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Approved**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

September 29, 2000

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, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.



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Clerk of the Board

File No.  
001564