

1 [Denouncing the Article, “Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War,” by J. Mark Ramseyer of the
2 Japanese Legal Studies at Harvard Law School]

3 **Resolution denouncing the article, “Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War,” written by**
4 **J. Mark Ramseyer, of the Japanese Legal Studies at Harvard Law School, which denies**
5 **the history of sexual enslavement of the hundreds of thousands of women by the**
6 **Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War.**

7
8 WHEREAS, It is acknowledged by the international community, historical records,
9 historical research and primary testimony that between 200,000 to 500,000 young women and
10 girls were forced into sexual servitude during World War II, these women are known as the
11 “Comfort Women”; and

12 WHEREAS, These young women came from every country and territory under
13 Japanese occupation including, China, Korea, the Philippines, Okinawa, Taiwan, Hong Kong,
14 Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Burma, East Timor and the Pacific Islands; and

15 WHEREAS, The average age of these girls and women was fifteen, but there were
16 some as young twelve; and

17 WHEREAS, The vast majority of these women from China and Korea were forced to
18 provide “sexual services” to the Japanese military, some were raped between 10-40 times on
19 a regular basis and it is estimated that 75% - 90% died in captivity; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. J. Mark Ramseyer’s article denies this historical truth and claims that
21 women were not under force or coercion but entered into “fair contracts” under a “game
22 theory” to provide sexual services to enemy Japanese soldiers; this novel theory, not backed
23 by historical facts or any kind of credible documentation, is in line with other historical
24 denialists; and

25

1 WHEREAS, “Comfort Woman” Survivor Yong Soo Lee, along with hundreds of
2 scholars, economists, game theorists, as well the Korean Association of Harvard Law School
3 have condemned Mr. Ramseyer for concocting a baseless assumption of who were the
4 “comfort women”; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2007, the US House of Representatives passed House Resolution No.
6 121, a non-binding resolution requesting that Japan apologize for forcing women into sexual
7 slavery during World War II; and

8 WHEREAS, The International Community, including the United Nations Human Rights
9 Council, CEDAW, and human rights organizations such as, Amnesty International, and
10 Human Rights Watch, have strongly condemned Japan and demanded that the government
11 officially apologize to the survivors and their families; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 218-13 in
13 2013, condemning then Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto for remarks denying the existence of
14 the “Comfort Women” and demanding an apology from Japan; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2015, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No.
16 342-15, Urging the Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women," urging the City and
17 County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for "Comfort Women" and to educate the
18 community about stopping global human trafficking of women and girls; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2017, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No.
20 358-17, declaring September 22, 2017, as Comfort Women Day in the City and County of San
21 Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, Incidents of gender violence, sex trafficking, and femicide, are increasing
23 in the world; and

24 WHEREAS, Historical Denialism of the “comfort women” system makes it ever more
25 difficult to eradicate this violence against women; and

1 WHEREAS, Historical Denialism as evidenced in Mr. Ramseyer’s article also denies
2 women survivors of sexual servitude the justice they deserve; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors denounces J. Mark
4 Ramseyer’s article, “Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War” and urges the International
5 Review of Law and Economics Journal to withdraw the article from circulation.

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City and County of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**Tails
Resolution**

File Number: 210319

Date Passed: April 06, 2021

Resolution denouncing the article, "Contracting for Sex in the Pacific War," written by J. Mark Ramseyer, of the Japanese Legal Studies at Harvard Law School, which denies the history of sexual enslavement of the hundreds of thousands of women by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War.

April 06, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210319

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/6/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

4/16/2021

Date Approved

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 her 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

04/22/2021

Date