

1 [Urging the California Congressional Delegation to oppose the ongoing effort by Rep. John
2 Culberson (R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the Matricula Consular and other
3 identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification]

4 **Resolution urging the California Congressional Delegation representing the City**
5 **and County of San Francisco to oppose the ongoing effort by Rep. John Culberson**
6 **(R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the Matricula Consular and other**
7 **identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of identification.**

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9 WHEREAS, Since 1989 the City and County of San Francisco has been a City of
10 Refuge for immigrants, who make up more than a third of the population; and,

11 WHEREAS, It is well-known and documented that small businesses in the City depend
12 heavily upon immigrants for daily operations; and,

13 WHEREAS, The current immigration debate makes immigrants even more vulnerable
14 to hatred, biases, negative stereotyping and racism; and,

15 WHEREAS, Representative John Culberson (R—Texas) introduced an amendment to
16 the FY'07 Transportation, Treasury Housing, and Urban Development Bill in the
17 Appropriations Committee prohibiting the use of photo identification cards issued by other
18 countries as a valid form of identification; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors in 2002 unanimously passed the Matricula
20 Ordinance, which amends the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Chapter 95,
21 encompassing Section 95.1 requiring City departments to accept photo identification cards
22 issued by other countries as valid forms of identification; and

23 WHEREAS, More than 70 banks in the United States accept photo identification cards
24 such as *“la matricula”* and *“la cedula,”* which are issued by other countries, as valid forms of
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1 identification for immigrants to open bank accounts, thus protecting immigrants from predatory
2 financial institutions; and,

3 WHEREAS, At least 800 police departments across the United States accept photo
4 identification cards issued by other countries; and

5 WHEREAS, The lack of an identification card makes immigrants subject to detention at
6 the discretion of a law enforcement officer; and,

7 WHEREAS, Detaining immigrants for no other reason than for not having an
8 identification card diverts police resources from protecting the community from violence,
9 robberies, and other criminal activities; and,

10 WHEREAS, In February 2002, San Francisco became the first city in the country to
11 accept photo identification cards issued by other countries as valid forms of identification; and,

12 WHEREAS, It is clear that accepting photo identification cards issued by foreign
13 countries is for identification purposes only; and,

14 WHEREAS, A photo identification card issued by other countries cannot be used to
15 obtain citizenship benefits such as work authorization or to obtain public benefits or to vote;
16 and,

17 WHEREAS, Consular-issued identification cards have numerous security features to
18 ensure authenticity and discourage fraud, including a digital picture, serial number, hologram
19 with special marks, and infrared band to comply with United States standards; and,

20 WHEREAS, Acceptance of these identification cards fosters cooperation between
21 police and immigrant communities; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California Congressional
23 Delegation representing San Francisco to show their commitment to immigrants by opposing
24 the ongoing effort by Rep. John Culberson (R—Texas) to prevent cities from accepting the
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1 Matricula Consular and other identification cards issued by other countries, as valid forms of
2 identification, and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to the
4 Matricula Ordinance, which requires City departments to accept photo identification cards
5 issued by other countries as valid form of identification, and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send copies
7 of this resolution to the Congressional Delegation representing San Francisco, including
8 House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Senator
9 Dianne Feinstein, and to all City department heads, along with a request to make their staff
10 members aware of the Matricula Ordinance.

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