

1 [Resolution against hate crimes and/or acts of violence against people experiencing
2 homelessness]

3
4 **Resolution supporting the National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to**
5 **combat hate crimes and/or acts of violence against people experiencing**
6 **homelessness.**

7 WHEREAS, From 1999 to 2002, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has
8 documented 212 separate instances of hate crimes and/or violent acts committed against by
9 non-homeless individuals nationally; and,

10 WHEREAS, *Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes*
11 *and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness from 1999-2002* is on file with the
12 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____, which is hereby declared to be a part of
13 this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and,

14 WHEREAS, Hate crimes and/or violent acts have occurred in 98 cities of 34 states
15 compiled by NCH, 89 of the reported assaults were non-lethal, while 123 resulted in the
16 deaths of homeless individuals; and,

17 WHEREAS, Among the victims of these crimes, the oldest was a 74 year-old man, the
18 youngest a four month-old infant; and,

19 WHEREAS, Among the perpetrators of these crimes, the overwhelming majority were
20 teens and/or young adults; and,

21 WHEREAS, NCH cites California as the most dangerous state in which to be
22 homeless, reporting 32 separate violent acts in 18 different cities including San Francisco;
23 and,

24 WHEREAS, Poor and homeless individuals are not a protected class under federal,
25 state, or local civil rights statutes and none of the current hate crime laws in the United States

1 include or acknowledge hate crimes and/or acts of violence based on economic or housing
2 status.

3 WHEREAS, In 1994 the California Assembly passed Bill No. 2521, which added
4 immigration and homelessness to hate crimes statutes that presently included race, color,
5 religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender and sexual orientation. However the bill
6 was vetoed by the Governor; and,

7 WHEREAS, There is a shortage of shelters, beds, and programs for the homeless
8 forcing many to live on the streets, which leaves them vulnerable to harassment and attacks;
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, Homeless individuals often do not report crimes committed against them
11 for such reasons as mental illness, substance abuse, fear of retaliation, past experiences, or
12 distrust of the police; and,

13 WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless acts as the nationwide repository
14 of hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people, but there is no systematic
15 method of collecting and documenting such reports; and,

16 WHEREAS, NCH's hate crimes/violence report does not take into account the large
17 number of sexual assaults on homeless women; and,

18 WHEREAS, In accordance with NCH's recommendations to combat this national
19 epidemic, San Francisco already provides sensitivity/awareness training on issues pertaining
20 to homelessness to police officers; now therefore, be it,

21 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins National Coalition of
22 Homelessness in calling for a public statement from the U.S. Department of Justice
23 acknowledging that hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless individuals is a
24 serious national trend; and, be it

25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco endorses the
2 National Coalition for the Homeless' recommendations to combat hate crimes and/or acts of
3 violence against individuals experiencing homelessness, joining over 400 national and local
4 organizations, including the National League of Cities, the National Organization of Women
5 (NOW), and Volunteers of America; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco join the National
7 Coalition on the Homeless in calling for a public statement from the U.S. Department of
8 Justice acknowledging that hate crimes and/or acts of violence against homeless people is a
9 serious national trend; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco joins the National
11 Coalition for the Homeless in their request of Congress to direct the U.S. General Accounting
12 Office (GAO) to investigate the nature and scope of hate crimes and/or violent acts that occur
13 against people experiencing homelessness nationally, and that a copy of this resolution be
14 send to the entire California Congressional Delegation asking that they call upon the GAO for
15 an investigation into this matter.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25