

1 [District Attorney Prosecutions.]

2 **Resolution urging the District Attorney to prosecute to the fullest extent allowed under**
3 **the law those arrested on March 20, 2003 and subsequent days who flagrantly and/or**
4 **repeatedly violated the law for blocking traffic and failing to follow police orders.**
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6 WHEREAS, From March 20, 2003 until March 22, 2003; the San Francisco Police
7 Department peacefully arrested over 2,000 individuals charged with, among other citations,
8 blocking traffic and failing to follow police orders; and,
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10 WHEREAS, According to Charter Section 6.103, The District Attorney is required to (1)
11 investigate all allegations of violations of laws which he has the power to prosecute in court;
12 and to (2) prosecute all criminal cases in the appropriate courts and issue warrants for the
13 arrest of persons charged with crimes to be prosecuted in such courts; and,

14 WHEREAS, The protests of March 20, 2003 and subsequent days were not victimless
15 crimes as thousands of members of the San Francisco workforce were prevented from
16 getting to their workplace and may have financially suffered from the demonstrations, children
17 were unable to get to school, numerous businesses in the Market Street area and Financial
18 District suffered financial setbacks, and emergency vehicles were prevented from responding
19 in an efficient manner to calls for assistance; and,

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long history of supporting the First Amendment; and,

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco also has a long history of protecting the rights of all
22 individuals, including those individuals who simply want to go to work and live their lives
23 peacefully without disturbing others; and,

24 WHEREAS, Organizers of the protests on March 20, 2003 have been very clear that
25 their intent was not simply to voice their disagreement with our country's foreign policy and

1 thereby exercise their First Amendment right, but instead to “shut down the financial district of
2 San Francisco and stop business as usual” (<http://www.actagainstawar.org>) thereby infringing
3 on the rights of all San Franciscans and demonstrating a criminal premeditated intent; and,

4 WHEREAS, In addition to blockading the City’s financial district, some protesters
5 vandalized both public and private property causing additional financial loss to both the City
6 and private business; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the District Attorney to prosecute to
8 the fullest extent allowed under the law those arrested on March 20, 2003 and subsequent
9 days who flagrantly and/or repeatedly violated the law for blocking traffic and failing to follow
10 police orders.

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