

1 [Endorsing H.R. 40]

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3 **Resolution endorsing House of Representative Resolution 40 (H.R.), Congressman**
4 **John Conyer’s African-American Reparations Act.**

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6 WHEREAS, House Resolution 40 (H.R.) introduced by Congressman John Conyers
7 (Dem.-MI) calls for the establishment of a federal commission to study the impact of slavery
8 and discrimination against African-Americans and to make recommendations to Congress for
9 repairs; and

10 WHEREAS, H.R, 40 is complimentary to the findings of the 2001 World Conference
11 Against Racism that concluded the Atlantic slave trade was a crime against humanity; and,

12 WHEREAS, 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United
13 States from 1619 to 1865 and the institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily
14 sanctioned by the government of the United States 1789 through 1865; and,

15 WHEREAS, the United States Congress amended the Freedmen’s Bureau Act of 1865
16 to eliminate the requirement that freed slaves receive 40 acres of land as compensation for
17 slavery; and,

18 WHEREAS, since the end of the period of the Civil War known as Reconstruction,
19 when the Federal Government briefly attempted to compensate the former slave community
20 for hundreds of years of bondage, African-Americans have been widely prevented through
21 legal and extralegal measures from obtaining equal education, employment, housing and
22 health care; in short prevented from joining the American middle class in substantial numbers;
23 and,

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1 WHEREAS, slavery in America constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of
2 life, liberty, citizenship rights and cultural heritage for African slaves and denied them the
3 fruits of their own labor while building a great and wealthy nation; and,

4 WHEREAS, the United States has a long history of supporting reparations and
5 reconciliation including a formal apology and reparations to Japanese Americans interned
6 during World War II and reparations to various Indian nations; and,

7 WHEREAS, Michigan Congressman John Conyers, with the full support of California
8 Barbara Lee, Maxine Waters, Diane Watson and Juanita Milender-McDonald, has introduced
9 H.R. 40 and it has the endorsement of cities such as Oakland and Berkeley, CA, Chicago, IL,
10 Detroit, MI, Richmond, VA, Baltimore, MD, and others; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby
12 fully endorses H.R. 40; and be it,

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco Board of
14 Supervisors direct the Clerk of the Board to forward copies of this resolution to the Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives, the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Judiciary
16 Committees, and to each member of the California congressional delegations.