## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Completed by: Victor Young Completed by: Victor Young		Date April 29, 2010

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Enforcement Audits of San Francisco Businesses]

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

Supervisor Campos, Mar, Avalos, Mirkarimi, Chiu, Dufty, Elsbernd, Daly, Ahaber

Resolution calling upon United States Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform that will solve the problem of undocumented immigration at its roots instead of through piecemeal enforcement-only measures, and condemning Immigration and Customs Enforcement audits of San Francisco businesses, including a unionized company.

[Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Condemning Immigration and Customs

WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system is necessary to meet the dual goals of ensuring a thriving and secure community and economy in the United States and protecting the human and civil rights of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform should include the following elements: (1) a plan for providing legal permanent resident status to undocumented immigrants who are living and working in the United States, (2) improvement of the economic situation of all workers in the United States including the restoration of the right to work for all immigrants. (3) the reform of visa programs in order to keep families together, including granting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) lawful permanent resident and U.S. citizens the right to petition for their domestic partners (4) the implementation of enforcement measures targeted at the worst violators of immigration and labor laws, (5) prioritizing immigrant integration into our country, and (6) respect for the due process rights of everyone in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced on November

19, 2009 that it will implement a new enforcement strategy of auditing workplaces to verify the

immigration status of employees. ICE announced that it will audit 1000 businesses nationwide

but did not reveal how it chose the businesses or whether it took into account if the employer is unionized, abides by federal and state labor standards, or if it provides high wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, enforcement-based immigration strategies for the past two decades have mostly failed in deterring unauthorized migration despite the allocations of hundreds of millions of federal tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, locally hundreds of San Francisco Janitors, members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 87, are experiencing an ICE audit, also known as "a desktop raid." Hundreds of these janitors, many of whom were employed by the business for decades, are at risk of losing their jobs, under the best union contract in the nation in the janitorial industry. The business provided a full range of benefits and full health care coverage for its employees; and

WHEREAS, Hornblower Cruises & Events, a company serving the tourist industry of the Bay Area and California, experienced the loss of 1/3 of its San Francisco based workforce due to an ICE audit in February 2010. All the Hornblower employees were long-term workers with over 5 to 20 years of loyal service to the company; and

WHEREAS, Audits of local businesses in San Francisco, are resulting in mass layoffs of hardworking residents, disrupting their lives, the lives of their family, and condemning their future; and

WHEREAS, our country is struggling to climb out of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, the city is facing unprecedented budget deficits, and unemployment is at an all time high, and the ICE audits are causing great disruption of local businesses that provide stable jobs to San Francisco residents; and

WHEREAS, Local 87 and its International Union have called for an immediate moratorium of the ICE audits until a standard and fair process for verification can be established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that prioritizes keeping families together, upholding civil and human rights, and promoting economic justice; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the U.S. Congress to place a moratorium on piecemeal enforcement measures, including ICE audits of businesses, and instead work to hold a hearing on the ICE workplace audits, and pose questions that inquire into how ICE identifies businesses to audit, what considerations it takes into account, including whether the business is unionized, and the ramifications that the audits have on local economies and communities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Nancy Pelosi, and Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, and Charles Schumer.