

1 [Resolution commending Doctors Without Borders for “A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the
2 City”]
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4 **Resolution commending Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières for**
5 **producing the interactive exhibit “A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City.”**
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7 WHEREAS, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an
8 international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in 1971;
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, MSF provides aid in nearly 60 countries to people whose survival is
11 threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics,
12 malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters; and,

13 WHEREAS MSF won the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize for all its efforts and good works;
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need
16 and reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge
17 inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments
18 and protocols; and,

19 WHEREAS, Globally, there are approximately 26 million internally displaced persons
20 and 16 million persons who have had to flee their own countries; and,

21 WHEREAS, Many of these 42 million refugees are living in squalid camps which lack
22 adequate shelter, supplies, and medical treatment; and,
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1 WHEREAS, In an attempt to educate the public about these issues and to fight the
2 “compassion fatigue” which can result from the overwhelming nature of the plight of displaced
3 persons, MSF has produced an exhibit designed to replicate the conditions of a refugee camp
4 which has appeared on almost every continent and in more than a dozen US states; and,

5 WHEREAS, From October 15th through October 19th the exhibit entitled: “A Refugee
6 Camp in the Heart of the City,” was set up in the Little Marina Green area of San Francisco;
7 and,

8 WHEREAS, The exhibit included an 8,000 square foot simulation of a refugee camp
9 where visitors experienced life in a crowded tent, sampled the utilitarian protein biscuits used
10 by MSF to prevent starvation, and attempted to carry 44-pound jugs of water; and,

11 WHEREAS, This exhibit, by educating the public about refugee conditions in a manner
12 which is more visceral than mere facts and statistics and which helps visitors to identify with
13 refugees, is an important step towards ameliorating the world’s crisis of displaced persons;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
16 greatly appreciates and commends Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières for
17 the “A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City” exhibit; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
19 Francisco looks forward to the day when the human suffering caused by violence,
20 malnutrition, inadequate health care, armed conflicts, and civil unrest has is abated to the
21 point that there is no further need for Médecins Sans Frontières; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
23 Francisco hereby directs the clerk to transmit a fully conformed copy of this resolution to
24 Médecins Sans Frontières.
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