

1 [Condemning Inflammatory Use of Negative Chinese Stereotypes by News Media.]

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3 **Resolution condemning the inflammatory use of negative Chinese stereotypes by**
4 **news media and calling on news media to institute measure to improve relations with**
5 **Chinese-Americans.**

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7 WHEREAS, China detained US navy crew members after their spy plane collided with
8 a Chinese fighter jet; and

9 WHEREAS, Constant and pervasive media coverage of the event has caused the matter to
10 become a part of the popular consciousness; and,

11 WHEREAS, There has been a corresponding increase in prejudicial stereotypes of
12 people of Chinese descent in Bay Area and National media as tensions between the two
13 countries have increased; and,

14 WHEREAS, Local radio talk show hosts and political cartoonists have ridiculed
15 Chinese people with blatant stereotypes during the last few weeks surrounding these
16 international events; and

17 WHEREAS, Radio commentators in other parts of the country have gone so far as to
18 call for internment of Chinese-American citizens, a deeply disturbing development,
19 particularly in light of the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, Such stereotypes also recently were used in skits before the American
21 Society of Newspaper Editors at its convention in Washington, D.C., demonstrating that there
22 is still a long way to go before the news media removes the effects of prejudice and
23 discrimination from its newsrooms; and

24 WHEREAS, The acceptance of and use of such stereotypes by those in the news
25 media creates a hostile work environment for Asian Americans who may be considering

Supervisors McGoldrick, Yee, Leno, Hall, Peskin

Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 working in such news organizations, making it less likely that Asian Americans will make
2 careers in such environments, and thus perpetuating the lack of diversity that makes the use
3 of such stereotypes acceptable; and

4 WHEREAS, The use and promulgation of such negative stereotyping by the media
5 about any group has the effect of increasing hate violence committed against individuals who
6 are members of that group by making such prejudice seem acceptable; and

7 WHEREAS, The use and promulgation of such negative stereotypes harms not only
8 Chinese-Americans, not only other Asian Americans, but all Americans, by fostering artificial
9 barriers of prejudice between people of differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds, thereby
10 lessening the rich bounty of diversity; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns the use of such
12 negative stereotypes by the news media and others; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco calls for the use of
14 diversity training for all news media in the Bay Area and nationwide, so that news personnel
15 can learn to celebrate differences among cultural origins rather than use cultural stereotypes
16 as a weapon to divide us; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges local and
18 national news media organizations to increase its affirmative outreach to increase the number
19 and percentage of Asian-American individuals hired into such organizations; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges local and
21 national news media organizations to fund public service announcements praising the
22 contributions of Chinese-American individuals to the greater good of the Bay Area and our
23 nation.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 010689

Date Passed:

Resolution condemning the inflammatory use of negative Chinese stereotypes by news media and calling on news media to institute measure to improve relations with Chinese-Americans.

April 23, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 6 - Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin

Absent: 5 - Ammiano, Leno, Newsom, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 010689

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 23, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Jean Lum
Acting Clerk of the Board

MAY 04 2001

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.