

1 [Supporting Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier]

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3 **Resolution supporting the need for a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge to**
4 **protect the public’s health and safety and further urging the Golden Gate Bridge Board**
5 **Directors to proceed with the design and consultation of a suicide barrier.**

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7 WHEREAS, Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States claiming
8 over 31,000 lives each year; and

9 WHEREAS, Research indicates that most people who commit suicide have an
10 treatable mental illness, such clinical depression combined with heavy alcohol use; and

11 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, suicide is the sixth leading cause of death claiming over
12 950 lives since 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge has witnessed over 1200 known suicides in the
14 60 years since its construction, more than any other site in the entire world; and

15 WHEREAS, There were more suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge in 1997 than there
16 were traffic fatalities on the Golden Gate Bridge during the last quarter century; and

17 WHEREAS, Available research indicates that over 90 percent of the individuals
18 prevented from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge do not make another suicide
19 attempt; and

20 WHEREAS, It is now possible to design and construct an aesthetically acceptable
21 barrier that will prevent suicides from occurring on the Golden Gate Bridge without detracting
22 from the view or grandeur of this magnificent architectural wonder; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long established commitment to establish and
24 enforce public policies that protect the health, well-being and safety of its residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, Other architecturally significant structures such as the Empire State
2 Building and the Eiffel Tower have eliminated suicides by constructing a suicide barrier;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 hereby support a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors the efforts of the Golden
7 Gate Bridge Board of Directors to proceed with the design and consultation of a suicide
8 barrier; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports a feasibility study to
10 examine both the placement of a moveable median barrier and a suicide barrier; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby urge the Golden
12 Gate Bridge Board of Directors to act thoughtfully and expeditiously to eliminate this public
13 hazard.

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