

1 [Condemning the Hate Motivated Murder of Billy Jack Gaither]

2 CONDEMNING THE HATE MOTIVATED MURDER OF BILLY JACK GAITHER IN ALABAMA  
3 AND URGING ALABAMA LAWMAKERS TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN THEIR  
4 HATE-CRIMES LAWS WHICH CURRENTLY ONLY ADDRESS HATE CRIMES MOTIVATED  
5 BY RACE OR RELIGION.  
6

7 WHEREAS, Billy Jack Gaither was brutally murdered this month in Rockford, Alabama,  
8 by two acquaintances, motivated by their hatred of gays; and,

9 WHEREAS, This premeditated hate crime included the savage beating of Mr. Gaither  
10 with an ax handle and loading him in the trunk of his own car to be transported to another  
11 County where he was beaten again and his body was set on fire atop burning tires; and,

12 WHEREAS, The two perpetrators of this crime, young men ages 21 and 25, have  
13 confessed to the crime and have stated that they plotted this brutal murder for two weeks  
14 because they were angry about an unwanted sexual advance they claimed was made by  
15 Mr. Gaither; and,

16 WHEREAS, Killing a fellow human being is not an appropriate response to an  
17 unwanted sexual advance; and,

18 WHEREAS, Hate crimes related to sexual orientation are on the rise in the United  
19 States; and,

20 WHEREAS, Alabama is one of 19 states with hate-crime laws that do not cover  
21 offenses related to sexual orientation; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges Alabama lawmakers to  
23 support State Representative Alvin Holmes' bill that would extend Alabama's hate-crime laws  
24 to include sexual orientation; and, be it  
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commends the  
2 local organization Community United Against Violence (CUAV) for protecting San Francisco  
3 residents from such hate crimes and for offering to provide assistance and counseling to  
4 those affected by the brutal murder of Mr. Gaither in Alabama; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco of San Francisco  
6 calls for the Religious Right to take accountability for the impact of their long-standing rhetoric  
7 denouncing gays and lesbians, which leads to a climate of mistrust and discrimination that  
8 can open the door to horrible crimes, such as those committed against Mr. Gaither.



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 990454

**Date Passed:**

Resolution condemning the hate motivated murder of Billie Jack Gaither in Alabama and urging Alabama lawmakers to include sexual orientation in their hate-crimes laws which currently only address hate crimes motivated by race or religion.

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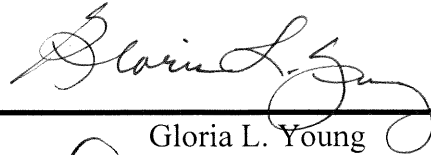
March 15, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 6 - Ammiano, Brown, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yee

Absent: 5 - Becerril, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Yaki

File No. 990454

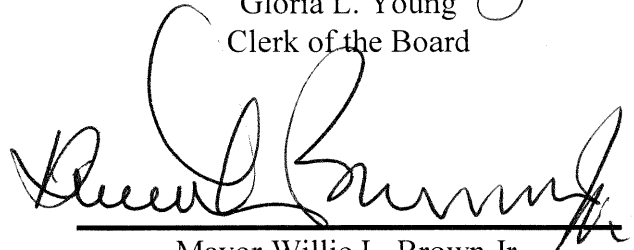
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution  
was ADOPTED on March 15, 1999 by the  
Board of Supervisors of the City and County  
of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

MAR 26 1999

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

File No. 990454 continued...