

1 [Urging Governor Schwarzenegger to grant parole to Flozelle Woodmore]

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3 **Resolution urging Governor Schwarzenegger to follow the Parole Board's**
4 **recommendation to grant parole to Flozelle Woodmore.**

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6 WHEREAS, Flozelle Woodmore was 13 years old when she began a relationship with
7 an abusive man who raped, burned, and beat her over a five-year period; and

8 WHEREAS, At the age of 18, Woodmore killer her abuser after he threatened to kill her
9 and their son; and

10 WHEREAS, At the time of the incident, evidence about domestic violence, known as
11 the "battered woman syndrome," was not recognized as a defense, and was never introduced
12 in her case; and

13 WHEREAS, Woodmore plead guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to
14 fifteen years to life in prison; and

15 WHEREAS, The Parole Board recommends release for less than 5% of eligible
16 prisoners service life sentences; and

17 WHEREAS, The Parole Board members are appointed by the Governor; and

18 WHEREAS, Woodmore has earned her GED, learned three vocational trades, and
19 mentors other battered women who need support; and

20 WHEREAS, Woodmore has served nearly 20 years in prison and has been
21 recommended for release by the Parole Board every year for the last five years; and

22 WHEREAS, The Parole Board unanimously determined that Woodmore would not
23 pose a risk to public safety if she was released based on her history of being abused, her
24 many accomplishments in prison, her widespread community support, and her lengthy
25 disciplinary-free record in prison; and

1 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has refused to grant parole to Woodmore five
2 times; and

3 WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger recently called a special legislative session to
4 discuss reforms to the California prison system, including proposals to enhance rehabilitation
5 and re-entry programs; and

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Defender, Jeff Adachi, has been instrumental in
7 raising awareness about Woodmore's case; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 urges Governor Schwarzenegger to grant parole to Flozelle Woodmore; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors urges the Governor and our
11 representatives in Sacramento to re-commit themselves to reforming the California prison
12 system so that it focuses on rehabilitating prisoners and helping them to successfully re-enter
13 society upon their release.

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