

1 [Expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic
2 rights to transparent self governance]

3 **Resolution expressing support for the people of Iran who act in good faith to secure**
4 **their democratic rights to transparent self governance.**

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6 WHEREAS, June 13, 2009, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was elected to
7 his second term, with the government reporting that he received 63% of the popular vote,
8 despite the most recent public poll indicating a 54% to 39% lead for his challenger, Hossein
9 Mousavi; and,

10 WHEREAS, There has been widespread reports of election day irregularities including
11 voting booths closing early due to a reported shortage of ballots and the country's cellphone
12 and SMS (text messaging) networks going down on election day; and,

13 WHEREAS, The reporting of the election results was highly suspicious with the
14 government claiming that forty million hand-written ballots were counted in the span of twelve
15 hours, and,

16 WHEREAS, The election results showed near uniform results from virtually all regions
17 of Iran, in stark contrast to the widely varying demographics that all previous Iranian elections
18 have displayed; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Islamic Republic of Iran is not a democracy, it's a theocracy, and
20 there should be no surprise that election irregularities have taken place since no independent
21 monitors such as the United Nations were allowed to observe the process; and,

22 WHEREAS, We may never know the true outcome of the presidential election since
23 the current regime under President Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali
24 Khamenei have used less-than-transparent forces such as the security services and the
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1 Revolutionary Guard to help administer the election process, while the Interior Ministry counts
2 the forty million votes casts; and,

3 WHEREAS, Despite great adversity toward those that demonstrate their freedom of
4 speech, millions of Iranians have exercised great feats of courage and creativity toward
5 motivating a new reform movement not seen since the 1978-1979 revolution that toppled the
6 Pahlavi dynasty; and,

7 WHEREAS, There is electricity in the air in Iran hundreds of thousands of protesters in
8 the streets demanding a clean and fair election, and reforms such as women's rights and
9 freedom of expression; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Iranian government has cracked down on these democratic protests,
11 leading to the deaths of at least seven protesters, the arrests of hundreds of opposition
12 leaders, continued disruptions of Internet, cellphone and SMS service, and the censoring of
13 both foreign and domestic media; and,

14 WHEREAS, There are signs that the massive and sustained protests are having an
15 effect on the Iranian government, including Supreme Leader Khamenei reconsider his initial
16 endorsement of the election results and directing the Guardian Council to conduct an inquiry
17 into the alleged voting irregularities, and,

18 WHEREAS, The Grand Ayatollah Hosain Montazeri, once considered a possible
19 successor to Khamenei, has called for three days of mourning for the killed protesters,
20 signaling a repudiation of the government's attempt to downplay the protests and leading to
21 his house arrest; and,

22 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 400,000 Iranian-Americans living in California,
23 and nearly double that number in the entire United States; many of these eligible expatriates
24 voted or tried to vote by absentee ballot in the recent Iranian presidential election; and,
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1 WHEREAS, Similarly to the "citizen diplomacy" strategies deployed between non-
2 governmental organizations (NGO's) in the United States and the Soviet Union during the
3 Cold War of the 1970s and 1980s, fertile opportunity exists between the peoples of the
4 United States and Iran to foster a new grassroots diplomacy aimed at pursuing peace between
5 both nations and democratic reforms in Iran;

6 WHEREAS, Even a "green revolution" in Iran will not happen overnight, and even the
7 best democracies have their worst moments as evidenced by the electoral ascendancy of
8 George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election; only to fuel passions that led to the
9 election of President Barrack Obama in 2008; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
11 urges the Iranian government to respect its people's right to peaceful protest; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with the
13 nonviolent creative protests that seek corrective action to voting irregularities in Iran, and
14 respectfully calls upon the Guardian Council and Ayatollah to implement electoral
15 procedures that validate an accountable election process; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors expresses its support for the
17 people of Iran who act in good faith to secure their democratic rights to transparent self-
18 governance in the wake of the national election of June 13, 2009.

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