

1 [Urging the Pardon of Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru]

2

3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to pardon Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru and stop**
4 **her deportation.**

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6 WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an act of
7 domestic violence occurs every 15 seconds in the United States, with four women losing their
8 lives daily. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate
9 partner in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control 1 in 4 American women will
11 experience domestic violence over the course of their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Liyah met her husband, a US citizen, in Ethiopia where he was stationed
13 with the United States military, and later she moved to Northern California to live with him; and

14 WHEREAS, Once in the US, Liyah experienced increasingly severe and life-
15 threatening physical abuse from her husband; and

16 WHEREAS, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru, a Black immigrant from Ethiopia, in an attempt to
17 defend herself, injured her husband, was prosecuted and accepted a plea deal without
18 understanding the potential future consequences to her immigration status; and

19 WHEREAS, Black women, particularly immigrants, are criminalized, incarcerated and
20 deported at over twice the rate of white women, making Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s story far from
21 exceptional; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 27, 2018, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru completed her sentence at
23 Folsom State Prison, and was transferred directly to Yuba County Jail for immigration
24 detention, where she now faces the added punishment of deportation because she is an
25 immigrant; and

1 WHEREAS, On March 2, 2019, the national #FreeLiyah campaign was launched to
2 stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s deportation, garnering over 75,000 signatures in support for her
3 freedom; and

4 WHEREAS, Incarcerated people are at a higher risk of infection due in the COVID-19
5 global pandemic; and

6 WHEREAS, Each day that Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru spends in detention in excess of her
7 original sentence increases her risk of being infected with coronavirus; and

8 WHEREAS, On March 26, 2019, Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru filed a pardon application to the
9 office of California Governor Gavin Newsom; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom can immediately stop Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s
11 deportation, and A gubernatorial pardon is the only clear path for Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru’s
12 freedom and reunification with her loved ones and family in San Francisco; now, therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 supports Aylaliya "Liyah" Birru's safe return to her family and community in San Francisco;
16 and, it be

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges California
18 Governor Gavin Newsom to grant a pardon to Aylaliya “Liyah” Birru to stop her deportation;
19 and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports all
21 survivors of domestic and sexual violence survivors, regardless of their criminal convictions
22 and immigration status; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
24 the Clerk of Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom.

25



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 200408

Date Passed: April 28, 2020

Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to pardon Aylaliya "Liyah" Birru and stop her deportation.

April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200408

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/28/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

05/08/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/08/2020

Date