File No. 140785	
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Committee Item No	
Board Item No	62

## **COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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	pervisors Meeting	Date_July 15, 2014
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Completed I	oy: John Carroll oy:	Date_July 8, 2014 Date_

[Urging the C	City and	County of Sa	ın Francisco to	Commit Resou	rces Toward	ds Addressing th	ìе
Needs of the	Rising I	Number of U	naccompanied	Minors Fleeing	from Centra	al America]	

Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to commit resources towards addressing the needs of the rising number of unaccompanied minors fleeing from Central America to mitigate the mounting international humanitarian crisis.

WHEREAS, In recent months an unprecedented number of children have fled their home countries in Central America to seek refuge in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Data collected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shows that since October 2013, approximately 47,017 Central American children have fled from their home countries into the United States, which represents a substantial increase from prior years; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the number of children entering the United States in FY2014 will exceed 60,000, with an average of 120-400 children crossing the border each day; and

WHEREAS, More girls are migrating than in previous years because of regional increases in gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS, During their dangerous journey to the United States, many children become victims of trafficking, sexual abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) interviewed more than 400 unaccompanied minors and the minors stated that extreme poverty, unemployment, trauma and the lack of state protection from gang violence and drugtraffickers were the main reasons for fleeing their home countries; and

WHEREAS, According to the UNHCR, approximately two-thirds of the minors who have recently arrived qualify for international protections as a result of violence and abuse in

their home countries; and

WHEREAS, Once apprehended by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, many of these children have been placed in detention facilities and processing centers where they have been subjected to inhumane living conditions for indeterminate periods of time; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Service's (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency responsible for the care and well-being of unaccompanied immigrant children, has identified the need for children to receive culturally competent and trauma-informed medical and social work services for life-skills readiness and to ease their social integration process; additionally, ORR cited the need for legal services to ensure that every child has access to counsel and receives due process; and

WHEREAS, The federal foster care program, which is designed to place unaccompanied children who cannot be reunified with their family members with foster families, is unable to meet the growing demand for host families; and

WHEREAS, The Obama Administration and HSS are soliciting the assistance of major cities, including San Francisco, to leverage city resources to help address this escalating international humanitarian crisis; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is home to a large and vibrant Central American community and has a longstanding history of supporting the advancement of human rights throughout Central America, evidenced by the important role it played during the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980's when San Francisco provided a safe-haven for Central American refugees fleeing civil conflict; and

WHEREAS, Since the passage of the Sanctuary Ordinance in 1989, San Francisco has held the distinction of being a "Sanctuary City" providing equal access to public services and civil protections without regard to an individual's immigration status; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco benefits from a rich network of culturally competent organizations and service providers with expertise in addressing the needs of Central American and Latino immigrant communities, including the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Legal Services for Children and the broader San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network (SFILEN); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco assist in the humanitarian relief effort by dedicating resources towards addressing the short and long term needs of unaccompanied immigrant children entering the San Francisco Bay Area by:

- a) Promoting the need for host families and sponsors who can provide safe and stable housing opportunities for the unaccompanied children and work to move children from the shelters into homes of relatives or host families as soon as possible; and
- b) Identify city resources to ensure that City Departments, in partnership with non-profit organizations, can offer a continuum of culturally competent relief services to meet the medical, mental health, educational and legal needs of these children and their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges our United States Congressional delegation to ensure the humane treatment of the thousands of minors being detained and to extend the necessary level of protections including humanitarian relief, advocacy, legal support and expeditious reunification of minors with their families; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this Resolution to the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate, the Honorable Barbara Boxer, United States Senate, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives and the Honorable Jackie Speier, U.S. House of Representatives.



## **Introduction Form**

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):  Time stamp or meeting date
1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion, or Charter Amendment)
<ul><li>✓ 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.</li></ul>
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor inquires"
5. City Attorney request.
6. Call File No. from Committee.
7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
8. Substitute Legislation File No.
9. Reactivate File No.
☐ 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on
☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission  Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative Form.  Sponsor(s):
Campos Subject:
Resolution urging the City to commit resources towards addressing the needs of unaccompanied minors fleeing. Central America
The text is listed below or attached:
Please see attached
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:
For Clerk's Use Only: