

1 [Resolution denouncing immigration raids and supporting comprehensive immigration reform.]

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3 **Resolution acknowledging immigrant contributions, denouncing Immigration and**  
4 **Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, and supporting comprehensive immigration reform**  
5 **focused on family unity, worker justice, civil rights and a path to legalization.**

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7 WHEREAS, Today, more than a third of San Francisco residents are foreign born,  
8 coming from countries such as China, the Philippines, Russia, Ireland, Mexico, El Salvador,  
9 Vietnam, Ethiopia, Iran and India; and

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco acknowledges the vast  
11 contributions of immigrants to our state and to our city; and

12 WHEREAS, Immigrants comprise more than one-third of the California labor force.  
13 They figure prominently in key economic sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and  
14 services; and

15 WHEREAS, Immigrants are among California's most productive entrepreneurs, and  
16 have created jobs for tens of thousands of Californians. By 2000, immigrant owners of Silicon  
17 Valley companies had created 72,839 jobs and generated more than \$19.5 billion in sales,  
18 according to the California Immigrant Policy Center. Google, Sun Microsystems, eBay, and  
19 Yahoo! are all companies that were founded or co-founded by immigrants; and

20 WHEREAS, Immigrants bring a wealth of language diversity to California's global  
21 affairs and economy. 43% of Californians speak a language other than English at home.  
22 Throughout California, immigrants speak more than 250 languages; and

23 WHEREAS, Despite the many contributions made by immigrants, the U.S. continues  
24 to operate with a broken immigration system that prioritizes punitive enforcement measures  
25 over family reunification, worker justice, civil rights and legalization, and

1           WHEREAS, In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation  
2 Endgame, an enforcement measure to deport the estimated 12 million undocumented  
3 immigrants in the U.S.; and

4           WHEREAS, Workplace raids, in particular, have surged in the last few years. In Fiscal  
5 Year 2006-2007, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 4,000  
6 people in workplace raids. This figure represents an astounding 800 percent increase from  
7 2003, when agents arrested fewer than 500 people; and

8           WHEREAS, ICE agents increasingly have gone door-to-door looking for immigrants  
9 with deportation orders, using the pretext of a warrant for one undocumented immigrant to  
10 arrest many others; and

11           WHEREAS, In 2008, San Francisco experienced the greatest surge in immigration  
12 raids, impacting local businesses like Taqueria El Balazo and households in San Francisco's  
13 Visitation Valley, Mission, Bayview, Nob Hill, and Tenderloin neighborhoods; and

14           WHEREAS, ICE raids tear families apart, spread fear, hurt local businesses, and  
15 break down communities; and

16           WHEREAS, Immigrant families typically live in mixed-immigration status households.  
17 Studies estimate that between 3.1 million and 5 million children – who are U.S. citizens – are  
18 living with at least one undocumented immigrant parent; and

19           WHEREAS, These children cannot be deported, but having their parents rounded up  
20 by immigration authorities leaves them vulnerable to family separation, economic hardship,  
21 and psychological trauma; and

22           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has a long history of denouncing  
23 immigration raids. On May 24, 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed  
24 Resolution 0515-99 declaring San Francisco an Immigration and Naturalization Services  
25 (INS) Free Zone. On February 27, 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed

1 Resolution 0085-07 condemning ICE Raids, opposing guest worker programs and supporting  
2 legalization programs for immigrants. On June 5, 2007, the San Francisco Board of  
3 Supervisors passed Resolution 0304-07 urging the federal government to declare a  
4 moratorium on ICE raids; and

5 WHEREAS, On February 14, 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom issued a statement raising  
6 concerns about the public safety implications of immigration raids; and

7 WHEREAS, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco's Congressional  
8 representative, has been critical of ICE raids and their impact on San Francisco families; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors denounces ICE raids and their impact on  
11 San Francisco communities; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages President Barack  
13 Obama and the U.S. Congress to develop a comprehensive immigration reform bill that  
14 prioritizes family unity, worker justice, civil rights and legalization over misguided enforcement  
15 strategies; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
17 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama and the  
18 San Francisco Congressional delegation.