

1 [Condemning Anti-Arab and Anti-Muslim Bus Advertisements]

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3 **Resolution standing with Muslim and Arab communities in the face of anti-Arab and**
4 **anti-Muslim bus advertisements.**

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6 WHEREAS, San Franciscans have come from around the world, and at its core, the
7 City and County of San Francisco celebrates diversity, stands for acceptance, and has fought
8 bigotry and racism; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco has many Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian
10 (AMEMSA) residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Members of AMEMSA communities have been subjected to pervasive
12 discrimination and hate crimes in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001;
13 and the past summer's war between Israel and Hamas; and

14 WHEREAS, American Freedom Defense Initiative (AFDI) was co-founded by Pamela
15 Geller, who has been designated by the Southern Law Poverty Center as an anti-Muslim hate
16 extremist; and

17 WHEREAS, In August of 2012, the AFDI submitted offensive, bigoted bus
18 advertisements to the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) that referred to
19 Muslims and Arabs as savages; and

20 WHEREAS, The SFMTA Director and Chair and 75 organizations and 35 community
21 leaders representing diverse communities and civil rights, labor and social justice
22 organizations, including the African-American, Asian-American, Latino, LGBT and Jewish
23 communities, spoke in solidarity with AMEMSA communities in condemnation of the
24 advertisements; and

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1 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, members of the Muslim and Arab communities were
2 deeply harmed by advertisements, and organized a community forum on January 31, 2013,
3 with city leadership in attendance to discuss the pervasive environment of bullying and
4 discrimination directed at the Muslim and Arab communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The AFDI have resumed publication of offensive advertisements that
6 denigrate Muslims and Arabs on SFMTA buses on October 15, 2014; and

7 WHEREAS, In response to the latest advertisements, the San Francisco Interfaith
8 Council published an editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle condemning these vicious anti-
9 Muslim advertisements, and the SFMTA created the “Peace Campaign” to promote a positive
10 message of peace, love, respect, and acceptance, and will run its “Peace Campaign” on
11 vehicles through the end of 2014; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors stands with its AMEMSA communities in the
13 condemnation of the Islamophobic and racist advertisements, as well as the use of any
14 language that marginalizes communities because of race, religion or ethnicity or that has the
15 effect of legitimizing violence against them, and also states that while advertisements may
16 have First Amendment protections, they have no value in facilitating constructive dialogue and
17 are contrary to the values of diversity and inclusion that San Francisco prides itself on; and,
18 be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages fellow community
20 leaders and residents to speak out against these advertisements and stand in solidarity with
21 members of the Muslim and Arab communities against the hate being directed at them.